

'Islamic Jihad' threatens French

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous telephone caller claiming to represent the militant Muslim fundamentalist group "Islamic Jihad" told an international news agency Tuesday that the group was giving French troops one week to leave Lebanon. In a call to the Beirut bureau of the agency an unidentified man said an "earthquake" had erupted beneath the feet of the United States in Lebanon and now only French troops remained. "We give them one week to leave our country," the agency's staff quoted the caller as saying. The caller did not give his name but said he spoke on behalf of "Islamic Jihad". A French unit numbering 1,250 men is the last of four contingents originally in a multi-national force remaining in Beirut.



Two Israelis killed near Nabatiyeh

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush in South Lebanon Tuesday, an army spokesman said. He said they were among troops in two army vehicles that came under small arms and bazooka fire about six kilometres northeast of Nabatiyeh. Israeli soldiers returned fire and opened a wide search for the attackers, he added. The attack brings to 571 the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon since Israel invaded the country in June, 1982. The spokesman said Tuesday's attack took place at the same spot where another soldier was killed a week ago. Earlier Tuesday, a hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli checkpoint in Sidon, South Lebanon but no one was injured, the army spokesman said.

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Hassan receives Canadian delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received in his office a Canadian delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan. During the audience Prince Hassan explained to the visiting delegation the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's expansionist policies in the area. Attending the audience was Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Keith Macellan.

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Klibi in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi arrived in Damascus Tuesday to discuss Middle East issues, the official Syrian News Agency reported. It quoted Mr. Klibi as saying his visit came at a time when the Arab World was facing "dangerous challenges" and that consultation among Arab leaders was required. Mr. Klibi's visit could coincide with an expected trip here within the next 24 hours by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Yugoslav president arrives in Aden

ADEN (R) — Yugoslav President Mika Spiljak arrived in Aden Tuesday from Sanaa for talks with South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad on the Middle East situation and other issues of mutual interest. Mr. Spiljak told reporters on arrival he hoped his visit would consolidate co-operation between Yugoslavia and South Yemen. Yugoslavia, an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement, has taken part in previous attempts by the group to mediate in the Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Nigerian envoy leaves S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Brigadier Tundi Idiagbon, number two in Nigeria's ruling military council, left for Lagos Tuesday at the end of a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Press Agency said. During his stay in the kingdom, Brig. Idiagbon was met by King Fahd to whom he delivered a message from Nigeria's military ruler, Major-General Mohammed Buhari. The agency gave no details of his talks in the kingdom.

Cameroun sentences ex-leader to death

YAOUNDE (R) — A military tribunal Tuesday sentenced former Cameroun President Ahidjo to death for plotting to assassinate his successor, Paul Biya. Mr. Ahidjo, 51, is exiled in France, but his aides, including Ibrahim Oumarou and Captain Salatu Adamou, were in court. The tribunal ruled that the executions by firing squad should be public but did not say when they would be carried out. The assassination plot was said to be part of an attempt to recapture power and restore domination by northerners.

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W. Bank representatives seek to boost Jordan-PLO dialogue

By Lammie K. Andani
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Intensified moves by representatives from the Israeli-occupied West Bank to press ahead with talks aimed at reaching a joint Jordanian-Palestinian framework in efforts for Middle East peace characterized Tuesday, the third day of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's current visit to Jordan to resume the dialogue.

The highlight of these moves was a meeting between Mr. Arafat and about 42 personalities from the West Bank, who arrived in Amman Monday to urge the PLO and Jordan to reach an agreement on future joint political moves. The delegation submitted a memorandum to Mr. Arafat urging him to co-ordinate PLO moves with Jordan "to liberate the West Bank from the Israeli occupation before it is too late."

No information was disclosed on the memorandum, but Mr. Anwar Al Khatib, a former governor of Jerusalem, told the Jordan Times that "the delegation has no specific strategy or peace plan in mind to impose upon Jordan and the PLO." He added: "We want both sides to work together because Jordan and the PLO are the parties which have the right to determine the destiny of the land and people of the West Bank."

Other members in the delegation echoed Mr. Khatib's statement asserting that "the PLO and Jordan are asked to take joint practical steps in efforts to save

the West Bank and Gaza Strip." Dr. Yasser Obeid, from Jerusalem, said that no immediate results are anticipated in the current round of talks, but "moving is better than the current stalemate we are in." Mr. Wael Hijazi, from Hebron, said that in the absence of an Arab military option an acceptance of a political solution will undermine Israeli justifications to invade Arab countries "to maintain its security." A delegation member, who asked not to be identified, said that "the military option would have been the best solution, but looking for a solution through peaceful means is also a form of struggle."

The delegation, which comprises five mayors including Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, is expected to meet His Majesty King Hussein soon to submit a similar memorandum.

The delegates told the Jordan Times that they represent the majority of the population in the West Bank and Gaza.

"There is no consensus in the occupied Arab territories on the resumption of Jordan-PLO talks,

but those who reject them are a minority which is instigated by Palestinian radicals and communists," a delegate, who asked not to be named, said.

A Palestinian source here dismissed the opposition to the Jordan-PLO talks as "meaningless" as long as "there is a practical peace plan offered to Jordan or the PLO."

Secrecy continued to surround the talks, but the sources said that there are two points that the two sides agree upon that can provide a scope for future joint political action.

They said that the inclusion of the Soviet Union in any peace effort within the framework of an international peace conference and pushing for an effective European role in the peace efforts are two points which Jordan and the PLO have called for on separate occasions and can provide a ground for joint action.

Asked about the form that joint political action would take, the sources said, "The seven-member Arab team formed at the Arab summit at the Moroccan city of Fez in 1982, is still a viable option."

The seven-member Arab team, which includes Jordan, the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, was formed to explain to major world countries an Arab peace plan adopted at Fez. The plan calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO and implicitly recognises the right of Israel to exist.

An agreement that might be reached by both sides, however, has to be endorsed by the Fatah Central Committee and other Palestinian factions. Differences between Fatah and the other factions have emerged in the aftermath of the unexpected visit of Mr. Arafat to Egypt and efforts to patch up the differences have not succeeded so far.

Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that the controversy over Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and relations between the different Palestinian factions were the centre of a three-hour meeting Monday between the PLO chairman and most of the 60 Palestine National Council (PNC) members living in Amman.

A statement issued in Amman last December and signed by 34 PNC members condemned Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo as "a deviation from the PLO revolutionary line." The sources said that during the meeting Mr. Arafat explained that his visit did not violate the Palestinian movement and was actually in accordance with PLO Executive Committee resolutions which empower him to take the necessary steps "for the return of Egypt to the Arab World and to unbind it from the chains of the Camp David accords."

The Jordan Times has learnt that both the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the biggest organisations after Fatah, under the PLO umbrella, have formulated a joint working paper that include the factions' conditions for reconciliation with the Fatah movement. According to the sources the paper that will be submitted to the Fatah Central Committee includes three points: — A call on the Fatah Central

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat: PLO and Jordan laying foundation for ties

By Ibrahim Noori

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday his talks here with Jordanian officials were aimed at laying the brickwork of Palestinian-Jordanian co-operation in Middle East peace efforts.

Mr. Arafat, addressing PLO regular troops on the third day of his visit to Jordan, also accused the United States and Israel of trying to create "sectarian statelets" in the Arab region.

"We are discussing with our brothers laying the bricks jointly so that we can march forward to Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat told troops of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) Badr Brigade, based in Jordan.

"These discussions shall go on, so that the one, united Jordanian-Palestinian march toward

ards Palestine and Jerusalem continues, God willing," he added.

Minister for Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud accompanied Mr. Arafat to the PLA camp at Khaw, some 50 kilometres northeast of Amman, where the 5,000 to 6,000-strong Badr Brigade is based. The PLA, which co-operates closely with the Jordanian Armed Forces, also has contingents in Syria.

"We are facing a very dangerous plan which aims at bringing the Arab region to its knees and create sectarian statelets," Mr. Arafat said.

"We shall not accept this American-Israeli plot to divide the Arab countries into sectarian statelets. I am raising the alarm to prevent the spread of this cancer to the Arab body."

He indirectly attacked Libya, Syria and rebels in his Fatah guerrilla group, accusing them of trying to subjugate the PLO.

Joint committee to send team to Arab countries

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will shortly tour various Arab countries which were asked by the Baghdad Arab summit to provide financial assistance to the Arab fund for supporting the steadfastness of the people living under Israeli occupation, it was announced here Tuesday.

The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the People Living Under Occupation, which held its 25th session in Amman Tuesday, decided to send the joint delegation to the Arab countries.

The Baghdad summit had asked Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to provide financial assistance to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). With the exception of Saudi Arabia,

which has fulfilled its commitment, none of the others has fully paid their share of the assistance, according to a spokesman for the committee.

The planned tour aims at seeking financial support for the people under occupation as well as to acquaint the Arab countries with the difficulties faced by the people as a result of the arbitrary measures practised by the Israeli occupation authorities, a statement issued at the end of Tuesday's meeting said.

At the meeting the Jordanian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar, and the Palestinian side was headed by Hamed Abu Sittih, member of the PLO Executive Committee and director of the organisation's Occupied Territories Affairs Department.

The meeting, which lasted for

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq, saying 30,000 Iranians killed, threatens Kharg blockade

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi minister said Tuesday more than 30,000 Iranians had been killed in fierce fighting in and around the marshes of southeast Iraq and reiterated Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem told reporters Iraqi troops, which launched an offensive on the southern Gulf war front last week, had suffered "the biggest defeat."

"Our great army waged a brilliant battle early this morning... and threw the Iranian army into the biggest defeat where you will see thousands of killed and large number of captured," Mr. Jassem said.

He did not indicate the period over which more than 30,000 Iranians had been killed. But a high command communiqué read over Baghdad Radio said four Iranian infantry divisions had been wiped out over the past three days in fierce fighting.

The minister also said Iraq's threat to blockade Kharg Island, more than 200 kilometres down the Gulf from the present fighting, was serious (Japan cautions Gulf-bound tankers, page 2).

"Any ship that approaches it will be destroyed by planes, missiles or any other weapon, no matter if that ship belonged to any country or any international carrier... through you (the reporters) we address the world and warn that no ship approaches this place," Mr. Jassem said.

Iraq said Monday night that its warplanes had launched "dev-

astating strikes" against tankers berthed at Kharg Island and warned it would continue to bomb the area. The island is in an Iraqi-imposed war zone.

Tehran denied the Baghdad report, which it called "imaginary," and said shipping movements in the area were normal.

Tactical move

The Iraqi high command communiqué on the latest ground fighting admitted that Iranian troops at one time had gained a foothold on land along the western shore of the Hawziah marshes, which straddle the Iran-Iraq border.

"At the same time the enemy pushed its forces through the land east of Basra and the Iraqi high command decided to deal first with the most dangerous attack and thus destroyed its attack east of Basra," it said.

The Iraqi forces kept a check on Iranian forces in the marshes until they could counter attack "to purge the edges of the marshes from the dirt of the invaders," it added.

It said the battle, which raged over three days in the eastern Tigris River sector, "was the fiercest ever and the most complicated military operation."

Iran launched a first offensive in the area, to the north and northeast of the southern Iraqi port of Basra, last Wednesday and at one stage said its troops reached the town of Al Qurnah at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Iraq says it repelled three sep-

arate offensives in the area and a thrust farther north a week ago. Iran later said it had not captured Al Qurnah, but was in control of the surrounding area.

The Iraqi commander of east Tigris operations, Major-General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhr, said in a cable to President Saddam Hussein read over Baghdad Radio that the Iraqi flag was hoisted Monday in the Iraqi village of Al Beidha, the last fortified position in the area held by the Iranians.

The latest developments in the war, now almost three and a half years old, raised tension in the area and caused Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, one of the most influential Arab leaders, to express fears that "an irreparable act" might be committed.

He appeared to be referring to the possibility of an escalation in the conflict if Iran carried out earlier threats to close the entrance to the Gulf if Iraq disrupted Iranian oil exports from the waterway. About 90 per cent of Iranian oil exports at present sail from Kharg Island.

There was no independent confirmation from foreign governments or shipping or other sources of the Iraqi report to have attacked tankers at Kharg.

But tension was further heightened by the news the American destroyer Lawrence had fired warning shots at an Iranian plane which approached it in the Gulf Monday.

U.S. closely watching Gulf war developments; World eyes focused on Gulf, page 2

21 injured in Jerusalem grenade explosion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Twenty-one people were injured Monday when two grenades exploded in a Jerusalem shopping centre in the worst attack in the Jewish sector of the city since last December, police said.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed responsibility for the attack, which it said killed or wounded more than 20 Israeli soldiers. It said its men escaped afterwards.

The DFLP, one of eight factions in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the attack was in reprisal for attacks by Jewish extremists on Muslim shrines in the city.

"The DFLP forces carried out this daring operation in reaction to Zionist settlers' attacks against sacred and holy places and the national centres and establishments," the Damascus communiqué said. It said the attacks will continue "as long as these authorities are following their terrorist, bloody course."

A few hours later, the Abu Nidal group, which has an office in Damascus, also claimed responsibility. Abu Nidal, which means father of struggle, is led by Sabri Al Banna, who broke with the PLO in the mid-70s, claiming the umbrella organisation had deviated from its militant purposes and means.

Israeli police did not identify the victims as soldiers or civilians. Hospital officials said one person was seriously injured, two were less badly hurt and the rest were cut by flying glass in the explosion at the entrance to a clothing shop in Jaffa Road, the city's main thoroughfare.

The PLO claimed responsibility for the December bombing of a crowded bus in which six Israelis died and 44 were injured. But the organisation later said the attack was aimed at an Israeli military bus.

Israeli soldiers set up road blocks on exits to the city Monday and searched Arab cars. Eyewitnesses said the driver and two passengers in a car with West Bank registration plates that was parked outside the centre at the time of the blast, were arrested.

Police spokesman Rafi Levy said two more grenades found in the same container as the two that exploded had been defused.

Gonzalez due in Jordan today after Riyadh talks

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Spain's visiting Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez discussed the Palestinian problem, the situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war in the official round of talks they held Tuesday.

The Saudi foreign minister who attended the talks said they dealt with the "role Spain could play toward those issues internationally and in Europe." But he did not elaborate.

The Saudi and Spanish viewpoints were "identical," Prince Saud Al Faisal added.

Means of boosting bilateral relations between the two countries were also discussed, according to Prince Saud.

Mr. Gonzalez arrived in the Saudi capital Monday for an official visit and will proceed Wednesday to Jordan for a day's trip before returning home.

His talks in Riyadh were held against a background of thinly-disguised Saudi irritation at the prospect of Spain establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel. But it was understood the Spanish

side had reassured their hosts that such a move was not imminent. Spanish officials said King Fahd had called Tuesday's meeting "the point of departure" for the development of maximum co-operation between the two countries at both private and official level, according to Reuters.

The Saudi monarch was reported to have told the Spanish delegation, which included Economy Minister Miguel Boyer, that he was keen to institutionalise co-operation between the two nations.

Mr. Gonzalez, who was received at a state banquet by the Saudi king on his arrival, spent more than three hours with him Tuesday during a joint session between the two delegations.

Mr. Gonzalez was due to continue his first official visit to the Middle East Wednesday with a 24-hour stay in Amman for talks with His Majesty King Hussein. Reports from Amman said a meeting between the Spanish prime minister and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was also being arranged.

Congress subcommittee increases aid to Israel, curbs Jordan arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — A key U.S. congressional subcommittee Monday voted to increase economic aid to Israel in 1985 while keeping assistance to Egypt stable at a level requested by President Reagan.

Mr. Reagan recommended \$850 million in economic support funds for Israel next year. In 1984, Congress allocated 910 million.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East Monday raised Israel's aid to \$1.1 billion and kept Egypt's economic assistance level at \$750 million.

The panel also voted to prohibit the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan until it moved towards peace with Israel and to prohibit negotiations between the U.S. government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the PLO recognises Israel's right to exist.

There was little debate during deliberations since agreements were worked out beforehand in secret session.

The panel for the second consecutive year agreed to allow Is-

rael to use \$400 million of its 1985 U.S. aid package to develop its new fighter plane, the Lavi. It also approved an amendment to the foreign aid bill stating Congress' concern "about the lack of progress in the normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel."

Cairo withdrew its ambassador in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon. The panel took no action to alter Mr. Reagan's proposed military aid levels but changes could come when the full foreign affairs committee meets to discuss the package.

The subcommittee's move to increase economic aid to Israel reflects the strength of the Israeli lobby in Congress and a U.S. recognition that the country is staggering under a severe economic crisis.

The provision banning the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan would not prevent the impending sale of 1,613 U.S.-made Stinger missiles but would prohibit such sales in the future, a subcommittee member said.

U.S. anxiously weighs Gulf war developments

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials considered the possibility of a new and risky phase in the 41-month-old war between Iran and Iraq after confirming that an American warship had opened fire in the Gulf for the first time and Iraq said it had hit vital Iranian oil supplies.

The Reagan administration expressed "serious concern" about Iraq's intention of launching air strikes against Iran's key oil terminal at Kharg Island, cautioning the action would mark an "unfortunate new level of escalation" in the conflict.

Iran has long threatened to retaliate by blocking the strategic Strait of Hormuz, conduit for about 20 per cent of the West's oil imports, if Iraq disrupted Iranian oil shipments.

On Monday the State Department said it could not confirm Baghdad reports that Iraqi aircraft had attacked tankers berthed at Kharg Island, which handles about 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports, but said it was following events closely.

Iran denied Baghdad's claims Tuesday. The National News Agency IRNA called them "imaginary" and said shipping movements were normal.

President Reagan has vowed to keep Strait of Hormuz open saying last week "there is no way we could allow that channel to be closed."

Mr. Reagan administration sources revealed that a U.S. Navy des-

trooper operating in the Gulf fired warning shots and flares on Sunday when an Iranian patrol plane entered American waters.

The guided missile destroyer Lawrence also warned away an Iranian Navy frigate which came within eight kilometres of American vessels stationed in the region, the sources said.

They did not pinpoint the location of the incident which represents the first public disclosure of a U.S. warship opening fire in the area.

The U.S. Navy has about 30 ships in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, including a battle group headed by the aircraft carrier Midway.

Some U.S. officials have expressed scepticism that Iraq would risk Iranian retaliation against its own already reduced exports by making good on its frequent threat to mount an all-out effort to destroy Iran's oil trade.

But others say the recent flare-up in fighting and Iraq's alleged air raids on Kharg Island might be the start of a big push to break the stalemate in the long and costly war.

Defence sources said Iran could

try to close the Strait of Hormuz with naval mines and by harassing shipping, but they considered it incapable of enforcing a long-term blockade against U.S. and other Western opposition.

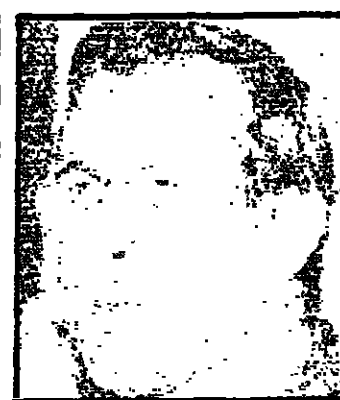
Despite a dramatically reduced U.S. dependence on Gulf oil, studies have said an interruption in Gulf shipments could damage economic recovery in the West and force up world oil prices.

Energy Secretary Donald Hodel said in an interview published Tuesday the United States was now better prepared than at any time in the past for a major disruption of oil shipments from the Gulf.

Mr. Hodel told the Washington Post that intensive preparations since late last year had ironed out practical details for emergency use of the government's strategic petroleum reserve which had grown from 110 million barrels three years ago to more than 385 million barrels.

The United States could not afford to be complacent, however, because its allies in Western Europe and Japan were dependent on oil shipments from the Gulf, he said.

Baghdad's report of "destructive strikes" against Kharg Island, about 200 kilometres southeast of the southern Gulf war front, brought trading on the Rotterdam Spot Oil Market Monday afternoon to a standstill and drove up gold prices.



Donald Rumsfeld expected to resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East Envoy Donald Rumsfeld is expected to resign after making one more trip to the Middle East that won't include a stop in Lebanon, a senior U.S. official said Monday.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said Mr. Rumsfeld, like his predecessors, has been discouraged by the lack of American success in resolving the crisis in Lebanon and will probably return to private business. The official noted that Mr. Rumsfeld has always considered the job temporary.

The official said he expects Mr. Rumsfeld will make one more trip to Middle East capitals with Laurence Silberman, his new assistant, before yielding the post to Mr. Silberman, the former ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Beirut 'Green Line' is firmly back in place

By Hugh Carnegie
Reuters

BEIRUT — The snaking battle front of smashed buildings, snipers and shellbursts that splits Beirut in two, known as the "Green Line", has come back to menacing life after 16 months of failed peace efforts.

First established as the divide between the city's mainly Christian eastern quarter and the predominantly Muslim west during the civil war of the mid-1970s, the "Green Line" was largely eliminated in October 1982 after Palestinian commandos had evacuated Beirut and an atmosphere of reconciliation briefly prevailed.

But by early this month, the line was as deadly as ever with fighting night and day along its length, from Beirut Port in the north to the town of Shweifat 10 kilometres to the south.

The line was re-established when militias, opposed to President Amin Gemayel and angered by what they regarded as the partisan Lebanese army, wrested control of west Beirut in fierce battles with the army.

By Feb. 7, they had fought their way up to the old Green Line and nearly three weeks later there is only one "safe" crossing point, supervised by French troops.

The crossing, at the bullet-scarred National Museum in the city centre, is packed most mornings by traffic heading both ways through checkpoints manned by the army on the east side, "Mourabitoun" (the sentinels) militia on the west and flak-jacketed French soldiers in no-man's land.

Even there, the crack of rifle fire and crump of shells frequently echoes. Only the most exp-

eriented and expensive Beirut taxi drivers attempt any other crossing.

Although the position of the 1984 Green Line and the fighting along it are similar to the old days, those facing each other across it have changed.

On the west side, militiamen estimated to number several thousand are now predominantly from the Shi'ite group "Amal" (hope), where before Palestinians, Communists, Mourabitoun and others formed a patchwork of front-line fighters.

Across the line, the barricades are manned mainly by around 3,000 Lebanese army men of the Third, Fifth, Seventh and Ninth Brigades, in buildings and bunkers once defended by an array of Falangist militias.

Still present in the southern sector and in secondary positions in the city's heart are the Falangist Lebanese Forces founded by Mr. Gemayel's assassinated brother Bashir.

Dodging snipers

For fighters on both sides of the line, life has settled down to a daily fare of dodging snipers, rockets and shells, keeping a wary eye on any attempted advances by the opposition and snatching food and sleep during lulls.

Fady Hayek, military spokesman for the Lebanese Forces, sums it up: "They shoot us, we shoot them. We get shelled and they get shelled... it's like the situation on any stable front."

Both army men in the east and Amal fighters in the west say casualties have been low since the Green Line re-emerged. Both sides assert they could advance if they chose to.

"We are holding our positions with no problem. If we have orders to advance, we can," said a Sunni Muslim army captain named Omar.

On the other side of the line in Hayy Maady, one of the areas of fiercest fighting three weeks ago, an Amal officer nicknamed Abu Hussein declared: "If there is no political settlement, we will advance."

A Shi'ite fundamentalist, he broke off his bare-footed praying to speak to a visiting reporter. He proclaimed his allegiance to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and missing Amal founder, Imam Musa Sadr.

Abu Hussein sent the reporter to his front-line positions with fighters wearing pictures of the two religious leaders round their necks and badges proclaiming their willingness to be martyred.

As in most parts of the Green Line front, fighters creep from building to building through holes smashed in walls to avoid snipers, daring across exposed streets.

Familiarity with battle

In many places, the two sides are as little as 10 metres apart. But familiarity with battle makes men on both sides remarkably calm about the fighting.

At the north end of the line near Beirut Port, army soldiers of the Ninth Brigade laughed when enemy bullets from Muslim militia positions spurted around an armoured vehicle racing down an exposed road beside them.

The group were mostly Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims from north Lebanon who scoff at hundreds of their comrades in west Beirut who refused to fight the rebel militias. "Don't believe that all the Mus-

lims have left the army," admonishes Lieutenant Ahmad, a Sunni. His men support Captain Omar's assertion that morale in the brigade, deployed only three weeks ago after training under American and French officers, is "excellent".

On the other side of the line, commanding a view of the port and in the city's wrecked commercial sector — under reconstruction until three weeks ago — are the 37-storey Murr Tower and the Holiday Inn Hotel, both concrete shells since repeated battles for them in previous years.

Both buildings, which lie a few hundred metres west of the front line, are now occupied by Amal fighters, dressed like all their colleagues in gear ranging from captured army uniforms to blue jeans and denim jackets.

The Murr Tower is so important, we decided to take it whatever our losses," said an Amal guerrilla in the huge block. In the event, the army withdrew from it without a fight, allowing Amal to set up a central control post for the area.

At the southern end of the Green Line, in the suburb of Laikha, the tall apartment blocks and close-packed houses of the city centre give way to largely deserted, small homes, barns and fields.

Here the front is more open, with several hundred metres separating the army and their militia opponents.

Young Amal fighters have dug trenches into the side of a railway embankment, their most forward position, allowing them to peer out under the old rails at opposition positions in a nearby abandoned Lebanese University building.

World attention focusses on Strait of Hormuz

By Barry Simpson
Reuters

BAHRAIN (R) — World attention focussed on a tiny island and narrow seacane in the Gulf Tuesday as Tehran denied Iraqi warplanes had mounted "destructive strikes" on tankers at Iran's main oil terminal.

Iran's National News Agency IRNA said shipping around the Kharg Island terminal was normal and Lloyd's shipping intelligence in London said it could not confirm a Baghdad report Monday night on the attack.

But the Iraqi report alone was enough to send world oil, gold and currency markets into turmoil and prompt Japanese shipowners to order two tankers not to approach Kharg.

Iran has long said it would blockade the 24-mile-wide Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf if Iraq disrupted its oil exports.

Tankers carrying one-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies pass daily through the strait between Oman's Musandam peninsula and Iran, and the United States, with massive naval strength in the area, has pledged to keep the oil flowing.

Iran has warned of a "catastrophe" if Washington intervenes in the 41-month-old war and news of a confrontation between the U.S. and Iran came within hours of the reported attack on Kharg.

Administration sources in Washington said the American guided-missile destroyer Lawrence Monday warned off an Iranian frigate in the Gulf and fired warning shots and flares at an Iranian reconnaissance plane which approached it.

Baghdad has said it will continue attacks on Kharg in an effort to force Iran to the negotiating table, and Iran is reported to have suffered heavy losses in latest fighting on the southern battlefronts.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Locals believe Tehran may now be weighing whether to consider discussing peace or widen the conflict by carrying out its threat to close Hormuz — a blockade military experts say it would be unable to maintain for long.

Iran has long maintained it will continue fighting until the fall of the Iraqi government and until Baghdad agreed to pay billions of dollars in war reparations.

But some diplomats saw a hint it may be changing its stand in a statement by the speaker of the Iranian Parliament last Sunday that Tehran was ready to consider new peace proposals.

The speaker, Hojatoleslam Ali

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in a radio and television interview that Tehran did not believe mediation could solve any problems.

But diplomats saw some softening of Iran's uncompromising stance in his statement it was ready to listen to new ideas.

Mr. Rafsanjani, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's spokesman on the Supreme Defence Council, made clear Iran still insisted the Iraqi government should go.

A major drive into southern Iraq in what Tehran was billing as a decisive thrust appears to have been blunted.

A week ago Iran mounted the first of four major offensives it described as launching its troops on "the Road to Jerusalem" — via Baghdad.

It initially reported thrusting deep into Iraq and making big gains, including capturing the town of Al Qurnah, at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers some 70 kilometres north of Basra, Iraq's second biggest city.

But it said it had not taken the town, although controlling the area around it, after correspondents reported from inside Al Qurnah that it was still under Iraqi control.

The State Department in Washington backed Iraqi claims that its troops had held off the Iranian attacks, saying there was no evidence of a significant change in the

battlefront.

The Iranian claims had been exaggerated, it said, adding Iraq appeared to have inflicted heavy casualties in repelling several Iranian probes. Iraq now puts Iranian dead in a week of fierce fighting at well over 30,000 men.

Iran describes the Iraqi claims as lies aimed at hiding its own defeats on the battlefield.

Tehran would appear to have little to gain by going ahead with a blockade of Hormuz and risking defeat at the hands of Western navies, diplomats said.

The U.S. has some 30 ships in the area, including the aircraft carrier Midway, backed by at least four British and French warships.

Oman also patrols the strait with exocet missile-equipped fast attack craft, and has a big air base at Musandam within sight of the deepwater channels, both in Omani waters.

Iran's navy, although the most powerful of the eight states bordering the Gulf, would have little chance in a confrontation with the U.S. and its allies, military experts say.

The strait's main sealanes are too deep for sonic mines — detonated by the sound of a ship's engines — to be effective, and moored mines could easily be cleared by minesweepers, they add.

The war has placed heavy strains on the economies of both combatants.

PSP militiamen, offshore boat exchange fire

BEIRUT (AP) — Mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen outside the U.S. embassy offices on Beirut's seafloor exchanged gunfire Tuesday with a speedboat offshore that also fired on a U.S. helicopter, witnesses said.

No one was reported injured in the three-minute shootout, which occurred at midmorning in the area around the embassy offices guarded by U.S. Marines.

Marines and other witnesses were uncertain whether PSP militiamen, who also help guard the embassy offices, opened fire first as a warning that the boat was coming too close to shore or if the PSP opened up after someone aboard the boat first shot at the CH-46 helicopter.

Sources at the embassy said a smoke flare was put up as a signal for the chopper not to land. They

Japan cautions Gulf-bound tankers

TOKYO (R) — Japanese shipowners have told two oil tankers heading for the Gulf not to go to Iran's Kharg Island terminal after Iraq said Monday that its air force had attacked tankers berthed there, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The two tankers, due to reach Kharg Island between March 7 and 10, have been told to wait at Sirri Island at the southern end of the Gulf, he said.

The Japanese Transport Ministry said no tankers owned or chartered by Japanese firms were now at Kharg Island and only the two vessels diverted to Sirri Island had been due there in the next few days.

The ministry said 16 Japanese tankers and 20 freighters were now in the Gulf. About 60 per

cent of Japan's oil comes through the Strait of Hormuz, but the government has a stockpile equal to 120 days of national consumption.

Shipowners and ministry officials said they had no confirmation of the Iraqi attack.

Foreign Ministry officials noted that Japan was one of the few non-Communist industrialised nations with diplomatic relations with both Iraq and Iran.

While ruling out a formal mediation role in the Gulf war, Japan has urged both sides to stop fighting and move to the negotiating table.

Iraqi aircraft earlier this month attacked an unfinished Japanese-Iranian petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini after Iran and a Japanese consortium agreed to

resume construction work there.

The \$3.5 billion project was abandoned when 85 per cent complete in September 1980 at the start of the Gulf war. It was later bombed several times by the Iraqis.

None of the 135 Japanese technicians surveying the site was injured in the latest Iraqi attack, but a second group of Japanese workers cancelled their flight from Tokyo.

The Japanese financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun quoted officials of Iran's National Oil Company (NIOC) as telling its Tehran correspondent Monday night: "Loading operations at Kharg Island are under way smoothly right at this moment. We now have no problem at all."

Cairo begins new trials

CAIRO (R) — Screaming slogans against the United States and Israel, some 170 Muslim fundamentalists went on trial Tuesday accused of plotting revolution in Egypt.

Packed in 12 cages in an exhibition hall converted to a huge courtroom, the mostly-bearded defendants, apparently at a nod from their leader, interrupted the judge at the start of the proceedings to read verses from the Holy Koran then chanted in unison "God is our defender, God defends the believers."

They were replying to Judge Mohammad Shawki Mahmoud, who was allocating defence counsel for each of the defendants, alleged to belong to the outlawed Al Jihad (Holy struggle) Movement.

Of an original 176 defendants, prosecutors said one died in prison and five escaped and were being tried in absentia.

The judge later allowed that 33 of them could be released pending trial and postponed the next hearing to March 21.

Several of them are armed forces officers but most are university students.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:45 Cartoons
18:00 Children's Programmes
18:30 Mickey Mouse Club
18:55 Sherlock Holmes
19:25 Programme Review
19:30 Programme on Agriculture
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:25 Local Programme
22:25 Arabic Play
23:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 House Calls
21:00 Science International
21:10 Rally — Eps. 9
22:00 News in English
22:15 Strike Force: Eps. 9

RADIO JORDAN
875 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
S partly on 560 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
10:55 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Instrumentals
14:50 Oh! Mother
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favorites
17:30 Jordan Weekly
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Over a Cup of Tea
19:00 Music
19:30 News Desk
20:00 Ode with a Star
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hour News Summary 07:30 What's New 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Talking about Music 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hour News Summary 09:30 Let Them Be Drums 09:45 Report on Religion 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Posh Choice 10:30 Two Cheers for... 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Anything for a Laugh 12:15 Rock Back the Clock 12:30 The Seven Deadly Sins 12:50 Recording of the Week 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 A Sense of Place 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio News 14:15 Nature Notebook 14:30 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hour News Summary 15:30 In Know It's Here Somewhere 15:45 Edward Elgar: The Making of a Composer 16:15 Report on Religion 16:30 Two Cheers for... 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Rock Solid 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Monitor 19:25 New Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Arthur Rubinstein 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hour News Summary 22:30 Assignment 22:50 Network U.K. 23:15 Short Story 23:30 Jazz for the Aspiring 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 22:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 A Sense of Place 01:30 Top Twenty

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9365, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the business report, science and medicine, sports reports: VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsweek 19:30 Special English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

• "Portraits of Landscapes from the Middle East" by Wolfgang Tiech at the Goethe Institute at 9:00 a.m.
• "Children's exhibition at the theatre of the Department of Culture and Arts."
• Paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at the University of Jordan's Library at 11:00 a.m.
• Turkish Carpet exhibition at 10 a.m.: paintings by Sabahat Rashid; and photos by Osman Akal at the San Roca Hotel.

• Turkish handicrafts and paintings exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
• "Akincilar Geliyor" and "Gelio" Turkish film programmes at the San Roca Hotel at 4:00 p.m.
• "L'Avanture de L'art Moderne" at the French Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m.

VIDEO

• "Akincilar Geliyor" and "Gelio" Turkish film programmes at the San Roca Hotel at 4:00 p.m.
• "L'Avanture de L'art Moderne" at the French Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m.

MUSIC

• Turkish folk music programme at 9:30 p.m. at the San Roca Hotel.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51761.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal gavi gavi (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustazah, Jabbal Lawweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Airia Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (MS)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Karachi (PIA)
09:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Muscat, Bahrain (KLM)
10:05 Cairo (MS)
10:40 Kuwait (KU)
10:50 Bucharest, Romania (RO)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:50 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
12:00 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Bangkok (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Larnaca (LH)
12:30 Zurich, Athens, Damascus (SR)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Oil results 'reasonable' in Azraq, reports say

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team prospecting for oil in Jordan is reported to have arrived at "reasonable results" after drilling operations at the Kuria well in the Azraq region.

A report in the daily Arabic newspaper Al Ra'i said Tuesday that drilling was continuing at the "Wadi Rajel" well, also in the same region.

According to the paper, final results of the prospecting operations will be announced soon and will indicate the presence of oil that flows naturally to the surface.

First estimates say that at least 600 barrels of crude oil can be extracted daily from the two wells, the paper added.

The paper said that more wells will be drilled at a distance of 1,700 metres apart in the same region, which is called "the oil basin".

Since the drilling is in "the oil basin", the final results will be encouraging the paper predicts.

The Jordan Times and Al Ra'i earlier this year published reports about the drilling operations going on at Al Azraq region.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat was scheduled to visit Al Azraq region Tuesday to inspect the drilling operations there, according to other press reports.

They said that Natural Resources Authority officers will accompany the prime minister on his tour.

Greece jails Jordanian for explosives possession

ATHENS (AP) — A criminal court Monday handed down a 20-month jail sentence to a student with a Jordanian passport who is being sought by Italian police for alleged involvement in an attack on Rome's main synagogue two years ago, a court spokesman said.

Osama Al Zomor, 23, who has already spent 15 months in jail since his arrest, was found guilty of illegal possession of explosives, the spokesman said.

The five-member court dropped criminal charges of smuggling after Al Zomor claimed the explosives were intended for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and not for terrorist attacks in Greece.

The court called for the student's permanent expulsion from Greece when he is released from jail in July, the court official said.

Extradition demand

Italy last year demanded Al Zomor's extradition on charges of complicity in the hand-grenade

attack by five men at the Rome synagogue in October 1982, which killed a two-year-old boy and injured 32 people.

But Greek justice minister Get Emangakis, turned down the extradition request saying Al Zomor must first be tried in Greece "for the serious crime he committed here."

At Monday's hearing, Al Zomor denied involvement in the Rome synagogue attack, said the court spokesman, who declined to be named.

Al Zomor was arrested in November 1982 with another Jordanian, 32-year-old mechanic, Mohammad Al Fayed. Customs officers at Greece's northern border with Turkey found 60 kilograms of explosives and various weapons hidden in their car.

Al Fayed also received a 20-month sentence to be followed by permanent expulsion from Greece, the court spokesman said.

Spokesmen for both the Public Security Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said that they had no information on the matter.

Representatives meet Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

Committee to reiterate commitment to the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions binding Arab countries and the PLO to boycott Egypt in the aftermath of its signing the Camp David agreement with Israel.

A commitment not to deputise or to grant a mandate to any Arab country to talk on behalf of the Palestinians in any peace negotiation.

Guarantees from Central Committee to prevent any violation of Palestinian resolutions and to enhance the collective leadership of the PLO.

Both organisations have opposed the ongoing talks in Amman, and the sources said that the DFLP "is basically opposed to the unclear basis of the talks." A reason that was cited by Palestinian sources here also apply on four Fatah Central Committee members "who expressed serious reservations on the current talks."

But, this was denied by Fatah officials here who stressed the future of Mr. Farouk Al Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, to come to Jordan for the talks "has no political significance". They said that Mr. Kaddoumi could not join the PLO team because of ill health.

Team to tour Arab countries

(Continued from page 1)

almost two hours, was attended by Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Jawad Al Anani, and the Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud from the Jordanian side and PLO deputy military Commander Khalil Al Wazir, PLO Executive Committee member Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman Abdul Razak Yahya and PLO spokesman Abdul Rahim Ahmad.

Mr. Arar told the Jordan Times that Tuesday's meeting was a resumption of the committee's regular session, during which it reviewed a working agenda including the committee's various activities, financial situation, and projects the committee has undertaken.

Mr. Arar said the joint committee will present a detailed report on the meeting to the Higher Committee for Steadfastness which will meet Wednesday chaired by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Regarding financial difficulties faced by the Arab fund, PLO spokesman Ahmad said many Arab countries defaulted on its payments and the fund's cumulative deficit till 1983 amounted to \$155 million.

Mr. Ahmad said that the fund's annual budget for 1984 is expected to amount to \$100 million.

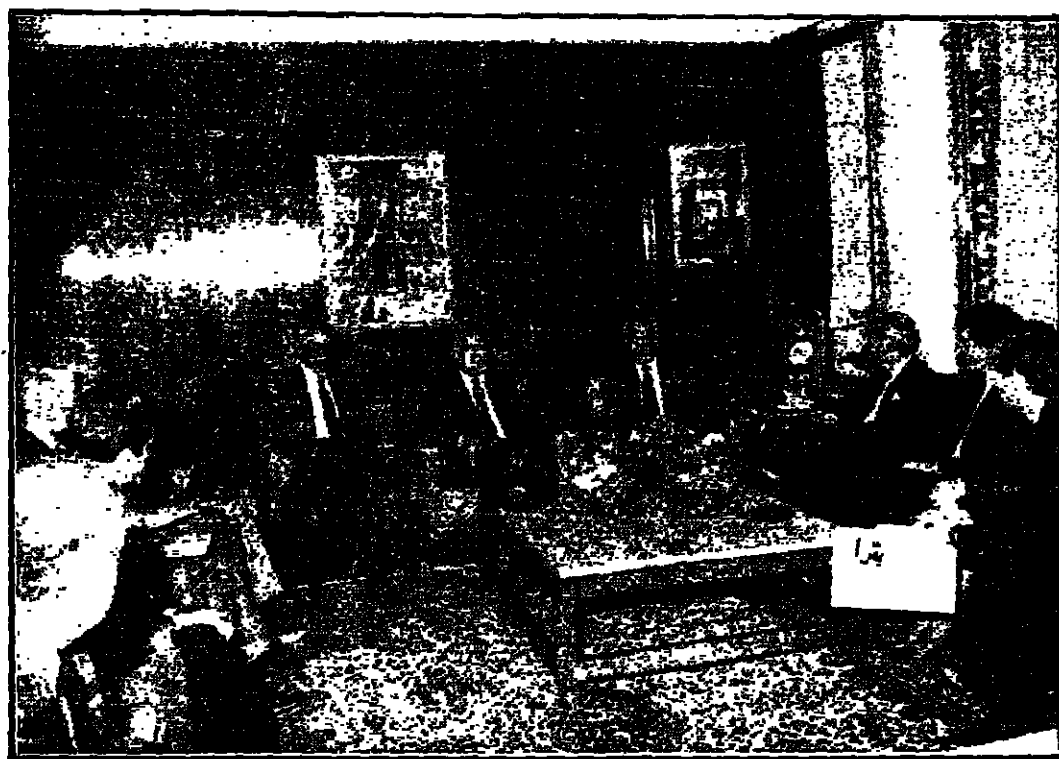
He added that some of the defaulting countries such as Libya "pays much more than its commitment to the destruction of the Palestinian struggle."

He said that Algeria did not pay some of its instalments while Saudi Arabia paid off its commitment totally including its commitment for the year 1984.

Asked to comment on the reasons behind the countries' defaults, Mr. Ahmad said: "They talk of financial difficulties, but we hope that they overcome the difficulties this year so as to make it up for the people who are suffering under occupation and to support their steadfastness."

Mr. Ahmad said the people in the occupied Arab territories are subjected to 17 different kinds of taxes as well as to all kinds of terrorism and seizures of land and water resources, and the destruction of agricultural and industrial projects and products.

The joint committee will meet again Saturday to resume discussions on various issues including the committee's agricultural, industrial, commercial and touristic activities in the occupied Arab territories.



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday meets the Canadian parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Anthropology symposium moves to field after three days of research discussion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants at the seminar on "Anthropology in Jordan: State of the Art", which started here Saturday, paid a visit Tuesday to Yarmouk University, during which they listened to a briefing about the university, its future plans and present programmes.

They also visited the Jordan Valley and some villages with archaeological sites in the northern part of Jordan.

These visits are part of the field research on which the seminar discussions are partly based, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted one of the delegates as saying.

Accompanying the participants on their visit Tuesday was Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, director of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA).

The three-day symposium, which was organised by the DLDNA in co-operation with the University of Jordan and Yar-

mouk University, concluded its formal sessions here Monday.

Working papers

The participants discussed over three days a number of working papers presented by Arab and foreign intellectuals and researchers about anthropology, social change and features of life in the village and countryside.

Dr. Richard Anton, president of the Department of Anthropology in New York University, spoke about the role of the orator and oration in Islam.

American researcher Linda Layne presented a paper about the use land by the semi-nomadic Bani Abbad tribes.

Dr. Fadwa Al Jundi presented a paper about the women's movement in the modernisation process and Muslim women in the Arab World.

Other papers, which were presented at the symposium, tackled subjects relating to authority and

social organisations in the Arab region, anthropology and the Jordanian community, and the Roman city of Jerash.

Dr. Sharkas said that anthropology is one of the humanistic branches of knowledge which necessitates further study and attention, particularly since such a branch is dependent on meticulous field work.

Only then do trends become clear to such an extent that solutions potential to social problems arising from social change become clear.

Dr. Sharkas added that the symposium, through the research it discussed, is consistent with planning to satisfy the social and cultural needs for Jordan.

It will also enable us to cope with the accelerating pace of social change, particularly the great pace of economic and technological change which, Dr. Sharkas said, will help us to maintain our identity.

MP seeks extension of fishing rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer



Ati Abul 'Izz

AMMAN — A Jordanian member of parliament is seeking to extend Jordan fishing concessions to include waters within the Saudi Arabian and Egyptian territorial limits.

Lower House of Parliament member, Mr. Ati Abul 'Izz, has submitted a motion to the government urging it to take up the issue with the governments in Cairo and Riyadh.

According to Mr. Abul 'Izz, Jordanian fishermen in Aqaba used to fish in the regions near the northern parts of Saudi Arabia and the shores close to Egypt before 1967 in accordance with agreements reached between Jordan and the two countries.

This practice was suspended

after the 1967 war because of Israel's occupation of the Egyptian shore.

Now that the whole area has been returned to Egypt, Mr. Abul 'Izz said there is no reason for Jordanians not to resume fishing as before.

He said that the two governments should be requested to re-consider the situation and give their approval.

The motion may be included in the agenda of the Lower House of Parliament which is scheduled to meet here Thursday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Akel al Fayed, and in the presence of the cabinet.

At Thursday's session, several draft laws will be reviewed and the government is expected to refer several more to the house for debate.

Arab economist predicts recession, urges policy evaluation

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A leading Arab economist believes that the Arab World will face a real economic recession in the coming years. In a recent interview, Dr. Burhan Dajani, secretary-general of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture (FACITA) warned Arab states of an impending drop in economic activity brought about by a fall in business in the Gulf region.

The Gulf countries have so far provided good areas for investment and have created jobs for millions of Arab engineers, workers, teachers, and specialists in many fields, he said.

The countries of the Arabian Gulf have also made available loans through specialised funds to many underdeveloped regions of the Arab World, but this situation is changing rapidly, Dr. Dajani said.

The Arabian Gulf has sharply reduced its aid and loans to the Arab World, and this move will certainly affect the level of economic activity in these Arab countries, Dr. Dajani added. In the light of this trend, he said, the other Arab states will have to re-examine their policies pertaining to investment and development projects, and will have to find a way to absorb workers now returning home from the Gulf.

Food security

Dr. Dajani said: "FACITA is following with deep concern the problems of Arab food security and is trying to do what it can to

bridge the gap between the rate of importation and production of foodstuffs."

Recent statistics reveal that the Arab World produces nearly 60 per cent of its required food, and imports the rest from different countries of the world, he said. Efforts to deal with the problem are however only moving slowly, and the gap is widening despite the unlimited Arab agricultural potential.

"FACITA is trying to help Arab countries exploit their agricultural resources in an efficient manner," he said. "We are especially interested in joint agricultural ventures that require serious effort and wise financial investment."

"But what is needed are funds, in addition to the co-ordination of individual Arab investment plans, that can make Arab economic infrastructure keep pace with agricultural investment and agricultural schemes. Indeed, food security requires that all Arab states gear their development processes in such a way as to cope with agricultural investments," he said.

FACITA's programmes

FACITA does not follow routine policies but uses action plans to channel creative work designed to boost development and to promote food security. The aim of this is to achieve a brighter economic future for the Arab World, Dr. Dajani pointed out.

He said: "Our aim is to increase inter-Arab solidarity and co-operation."

Dr. Dajani also said: "In 1984, FACITA will concentrate its efforts on joint Arab projects and on increasing investment of Arab

capital in Arab countries. We have succeeded in creating a suitable climate for such investment but more work is still to be done in this respect."

"We aim to introduce technology that can create new industrial patterns that should raise the standard of Arab industries," he said.

Over the past year FACITA has organised two international seminars, one of which was held in Paris in March in co-operation with French businessmen.

The seminar included official participation and was attended by members of the public, with both French and Kuwaiti officials making speeches.

The Paris seminar underlined the close relationship between the economic and national interests of Arab countries and France, and also on the need for France to maintain its support for Arab causes as a way of further bolstering its economic relations with the Arab World.

The second seminar was held in Belgium in co-operation with the European Community and a number of European companies and firms.

"This seminar was in a sense a continuation of the Euro-Arab dialogue," Dr. Dajani said.

Leading businessmen from both sides took part in the seminar and engaged in direct discussions which dealt with problems connected with the exports of Arab non-oil producing countries to European nations, especially products from the Maghreb countries.

At this seminar a call to bolster trade between the two sides was supported by a number of governments, particularly France and Britain.

PLO chairman meets parliamentary delegation

Arafat: Canadian policy must be more balanced

By Elia Nasrallah and Salameh B. Ne'matt

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has urged a Canadian parliamentary delegation visiting Jordan to exert pressure on their government to adopt a more balanced policy vis-a-vis the Middle East issue and to give due consideration and recognition to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Mr. Arafat also spoke to the Canadian parliamentarians on Israel's constant violation of Palestinian people's rights, its arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab lands, Zionist massacres of Palestinian people and Israel's drive to evacuate the Arab lands of their indigenous population.

He also reviewed with his visitors the history of the Palestine problem, pointing out the real intentions of the Israelis. "They are intent," he said, "on obliterating the Palestinian people's identity and confiscating their territory."

The seven-member delegation, which is on a tour of the region, is led by Mr. Robert Corbett from the Conservative Party.

A spokesman for the Canadian embassy told the Jordan Times that the delegation will be leaving Tuesday for Baghdad and will then visit the West Bank, Syria and Funtia.

The delegation, which is on a fact-finding mission, is made up of

members of the Canada-Arab World Parliamentary Association, the spokesman said.

The delegation members Tuesday met Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi and several of its members.

Mr. Lawzi said that the Canadian parliamentarians' visit is very important and comes at a critical time with the region facing the Iraq-Iran war, dangerous developments in Lebanon and the challenges facing the Palestine problem.

Crux of the conflict

"The Palestine problem remains the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the root cause of the sufferings of the Palestinian people,"

This, he continued, is directly attributable to Israel's continued occupation of Palestine and its insistence on denying the Palestinians their legitimate rights in

their homeland.

Mr. Lawzi urged the delegation to exert more pressure on their government towards adopting a balanced policy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This, he said, will enable Canada to achieve a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He also expressed the Senate's keenness to maintain close co-operation with the Canadian parliament.

The Canadian delegation were received later by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed and several house members.

The Canadian delegation members presented their views at the meeting on the Palestine problem and stressed the need to expand the contacts between the Canadian and Arab people.

Mr. Fayed emphasised the importance of such contacts and said that the Lower House is forming a committee which will be charged with finding ways of bolstering ties with Canadian parliamentarians to help explain Jordan's views as to the Palestine problem and to help strengthen Jordanian-Canadian relations.

Jordan is firmly committed to a

middle East settlement in accordance with U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and will strive to regain the Palestinian people's rights based on the principle of self-determination, Mr. Fayed said.

Noor to open gallery extension

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday, February 29, sees the opening by Her Majesty Queen Noor of the newly constructed second floor of the Jordan National Gallery. With its gleaming white walls and feeling of light and airy spaciousness, this new floor provides much needed space for the gallery's unique and rapidly expanding collection of art from the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The building up of this collection has been the main aim of the gallery and, in the few short years since its inauguration in 1980, the collection has grown beyond all recognition. While the speed of this expansion was obviously immensely gratifying for the president of the Royal Society for Fine Arts (RSFA) — the society that founded the gallery — Princess Wijdan Ali, and for the gallery's director, Mr. Suhail Bishara, the collection presented enormous problems of storage and display.

"Normally a collection of art is built up before a space for it is provided," Mr. Bishara told the Jordan Times, "but instead of waiting five to 10 years for a suitably sized collection to be established, we opened a gallery and began collecting simultaneously."

At first this situation was fine, but as the collection grew and

grew and because it had to be taken down every time an exhibition was staged (this happened 27 times) a solution to the problem of space had to be found.

"When you increase at this speed," continued Mr. Bishara, "you do not have time to wait for the building of a new museum. So we went ahead with extreme difficulty and constructed this second floor. All the funds for the extension were raised by approaching local individuals and companies. Not only do they now feel more involved with the gallery, but the new floor is a reflection of their efforts and that of many others."

Dynamic and fast growing

The extra space means a great deal more however than just room to display favourably all the new works coming in. The new floor is living proof that the gallery is a dynamic and fast growing institution and, sensing its growing reputation, artists from all over the Islamic World now want their work to be included in the collection, while local artists are not only offering their work but also their services.

"The moral support has been wonderful," Princess Wijdan said, "and the awareness of what we are doing has increased a great deal."

Anani to head trade tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Dr. Jawad Anani, will head a trade and commerce delegation on March 22 to visit a number of Arab and African states including South Yemen, North Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti.

During its two-week visit, the delegation will hold talks with officials in these states concerning an increase in and strengthening of trade between these countries and Jordan, and to sign bilateral commercial agreements.

Jordan to attend dentists conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Activities of the Arab Dentists Federation (ADF) and its financial and administrative reports, in addition to a report about the federation's relations with the International Dentists Federation will be discussed during a forthcoming session of the Permanent Bureau of the ADF due to be held in Algeria on March 20.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, president of the Jordanian Dentists Association, who is expected to attend the meetings, said that means of developing the profession of dentists in the Arab World and improving dentistry services will be among subjects to be discussed during the ADF conference.

Amending the internal regulations of the ADF and its annual budget will also be discussed, Dr. Ahmad said.

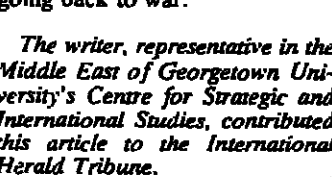


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The Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships realise that the present calm in the situation can never last for long and the Israelis could be planning another aggression on the Arab nation. The Jordanians and Palestinians are the main target of Zionist attacks in view of their geographic position and their proximity to the occupied Arab regions. Therefore, the Jordanians and Palestinians are bound to co-ordinate their steps and join hands to deal with the situation.

"Finally, in desperation, the man picked up the horse and threw him over a cliff." "Why did you do that, Father?" the boy cried in horror. "Son," the man replied, "there is no way we can please everyone, so at least this way, the wretched horse is no longer a problem."



What Mr. Herzog did not say was that the threat is more dangerous because of the mounting evidence that violence on the part of the Jewish settlers is tolerated and has on occasion been instigated by the Israeli authorities themselves, both military and political. This has never been a secret inside Israel, where men like Ariel Sharon (who is still a member of the Israeli gov-

And in defence of their present decision, the Spanish tell their allies that NATO is a potentially explosive political issue in Spain in which the government could even founder.



Every word was once a poem;
Each began as a picture.

MALAPROPISM: humorously
ridiculous misuse of words

In the year 1775, Richard Brinsley Sheridan produced his famous comedy, "The Rivals". Linda Languish, the charming heroine, had a dear old aunt, Mrs. Malaprop, who had a twisted tongue that could never get things quite straight. She referred to her daughter, for instance, as a progeny of learning. "She would talk of 'supercilious knowledge' and 'contagious countries'." And she complained of someone who was "as headstrong as an allegory on the banks of the Nile." The name of Mrs. Malaprop is a shortening of the French phrase *mal a propos* which means "inopportune." So a malapropism is a garbled meaning.

MASOCHISM:

A strange type of sexual perversion where a person gets pleasure out of being dominated or even cruelly treated by someone of the opposite sex. The words masochism and masochist were taken from the name of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, an Austrian novelist who described this abnormality, and the terms were probably first used professionally by the contemporary and famous Freudian psychiatrist Sigmund Freud. Now masochism can be used to mean any kind of pleasure in being abused.

SPOONERISM:

People have been guilty of spoonerisms since the beginning of spoken language, but it was left to a Britisher to identify the error with his name. The Rev. W.A. Spooner was born in England in 1844 and finally became warden of New College, Oxford. Whenever the Rev. Spooner grew excited in his speech he was apt to twist around the initial sounds of two or more words. On one occasion, he was trying to say, "The conquering kings their titles take," but it came out, "the tinkering congs their 'title take'." This so amused the students that they began calling such a linguistic turnaround a spoonerism. You may find yourself accidentally saying, "sheets and kelly," for "Keats and Shelly" on occasion; and if you do, you have perpetrated a spoonerism.

— Ahmad Jaber

Spanish village women take control

By Pascal Fletcher
Rouer

ZAMARRAMALA, Spain — "Keep your wife and the saucepan in the kitchen" runs a Spanish proverb, but each February the women of Zamarramala claim obedience and servility from their menfolk and send them scurrying to the kitchen sink.

In a tradition dating back to 1227, the mayor and the male inhabitants of this rural hamlet perched on windswept hills near the city of Segovia solemnly hand over power for two days to the married women of the village.

"For two days, what they say goes," said one male villager. Besides bossing their husbands, the women elect two mayors, give orders to the priest and constable and hold events from which men and unmarried women are banned.

Legend has it that the women of Zamarramala earned the privilege when the citadel of Segovia was held by the Moors and the women organised a dance to lure the sentries away from their posts while

the men retook the fortress. The celebration is held on the feast day of Saint Agatha, a third-century martyr and patroness of married women whose breasts were cut off by her executioners—a fate said also to have befallen a Zamarramala woman.

The women, wearing the richly-embroidered shawls, colourful skirts and ornate silver jewellery that are family heirlooms, lead the statue of Saint Agatha in a procession through the village while their husbands look on from the sidelines.

Some husbands don aprons to mark the day.

A male dummy is burned in the village square to applause from the Zamarramala wives and busloads of women who flock to watch from Madrid, some 90 kilometres away.

The old men of Zamarramala tell how, until early this century, the village women carried large skirts called "matambres" (mankickers) to discourage men who became too familiar or tried to join their dances.

"They fell upon the unfortunate

victim like a swarm of bees," one 19th century parish chronicler records.

"The men are now more used to it and we no longer have to show them, as we did in the old days, that they've got nothing to say on this occasion," explained Pilar Mateo Mate.

Pilar and her sister Maria Antonia were elected mayors for this year's celebrations, held last week.

Today the pins, gilded and encrusted in a piece of wood, are presented to visiting male dignitaries and writers who are considered to have exalted women's virtues in their work.

The village women, accompanied by the priest and a band, the only males allowed to take part, bob and weave through the narrow streets to the music of traditional "jota" dances.

"I don't mind letting my wife run around by herself because I know the only man near her today is the priest," said one man.

Father Juan Pablo Martin confesses he has taken part in the ceremony for many years but still

can't dance the "jota". While their menfolk prepare the midday meal at home, the wives lock themselves in the house of one of the mayors to drink wine and eat spiced sausage boiled to an ancient recipe.

They then do the rounds of the village bars and demand a traditional toll of money from every man they encounter.

"Imagine what it's like to be a woman and then you'll know how we feel today," Pilar Alvarez tells curious male visitors.

"Of course, we all know that it's women who really run things all year round," she adds with a twinkle in her eye.

Female emancipation has not yet progressed as far in Spain as in other European nations and the United States, and women government ministers and company directors are still a rarity.

But Segovia Province, in which Zamarramala is located, is one of the few in Spain to have a woman civil governor, elected shortly after the Socialist government took power in late 1982.

Herstatt Bank collapse signifies risk

By Stephen Jukes
Rouer

FRANKFURT — A 4.5-year jail sentence handed out to 70-year-old Ivan D. Herstatt by a Cologne court has revived painful memories of the most traumatic banking crisis ever to hit West Germany.

The collapse 10 years ago of the now-infamous Cologne Bank which bore Herstatt's name left enraged customers demanding money outside locked doors and sent shock waves through the international banking community.

Herstatt Bank had failed with losses of about 1.2 billion marks (now \$445 million) caused by illegal foreign exchange dealings.

Six managers of the bank have been convicted over the last year, but it seemed until this year that its founder might escape trial for fraudulent bankruptcy on medical grounds.

Despite medical evidence that he had been fitted with a pacemaker, however, the court went ahead before a 10-year statute of limitations put him beyond the power of the courts.

Still reputed to enjoy the good life, Herstatt appeared in court with a camel-hair coat over his huge frame and a soft, wide-brimmed hat obscuring his bloodhound-like features.

After a surprisingly quick 11-day trial, the court found him guilty of helping to hide foreign exchange losses of 100 million marks (\$40 million) incurred in 1973.

The court decided he signed the

1973 balance sheet in early 1974 while knowing the bank had debts of 520 million marks (\$195 million).

Herstatt, who appeared unmoved when the verdict was read out, protested innocence throughout the trial and his lawyers plan to appeal.

He said he had lost everything but his self-respect and told the court: "I will not let that be taken from me."

A court spokesman in Cologne said he would remain free pending the outcome of the appeal.

With his last words to the court, Herstatt claimed the true culprit was the bank's chief foreign exchange dealer, Dany Dattel.

Dattel has escaped trial so far on the grounds of ill health after arguing that he suffered paranoia caused by Nazi persecution during his childhood and that he might be led to take his own life.

Bankers here say the Herstatt collapse, which led to major revisions in banking supervision here and abroad, is engraved on the banking community's heart.

In the early 1970s, Herstatt Bank had speculated wildly on the international currency markets, concealed losses in a special account and doctored its computer.

Major British and American banks were enraged that they should have been caught out by fraudulent dealings and that the West German authorities, in first instance the Central Bank (Bundesbank), did not clamp down on Herstatt earlier.

But the painful lessons of the affair failed to prevent the near

collapse last autumn of Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst und Co (SMH), a prestigious private bank which turned out to be vastly over-inflated by IBH Holding, a building conglomerate that was on the verge of bankruptcy.

And no sooner had West German banks mounted a 900-million-mark (\$335-million) rescue package for SMH, than parallels with the Herstatt collapse were being drawn.

On the face of it the two cases are worlds apart. But bankers say both cast the private banking world in a light of complex and sometimes shady deals.

The SMH affair revealed yet again that there were still loopholes to be plugged in the banking law.

An internationally-co-ordinated raid by police in January removed vast loads of documents from the offices of SMH in Europe and those of IBH. State prosecutors say they will decide shortly whether to bring charges.

Bankers say SMH's problems stem from lending nearly nine times its capital to what was effectively one borrower — IBH.

Though it may have kept to the letter of the law, conducting deals with a network of legally separate subsidiaries, they say SMH in practice flouted banking rules which limit the credit that may be advanced to one borrower to 75 per cent of capital.

Senior partner of SMH was flamboyant, Oxford-educated Count Ferdinand Von Galen, whose family has been traced back to 1138

and whose personal wealth was estimated at \$100 million when he married into another rich banking family in 1966.

Sporting exclusively-cut double-breasted suits and with a mixture of charm and dynamism, Von Galen built SMH into one of the most respected banks on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

But one of Von Galen's closest business partners was the young, U.S.-educated German businessman Horst Dieter Esch, founder of IBH.

From the beginning, bankers were surprised by the link with Esch, a self-made man and son of a welder. But only a few major international banks sensed that SMH's involvement with IBH would push the bank to the verge of collapse.

Von Galen resigned his post as head of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange within days of the SMH crisis. He has now become a virtual recluse and effectively lost control of the bank.

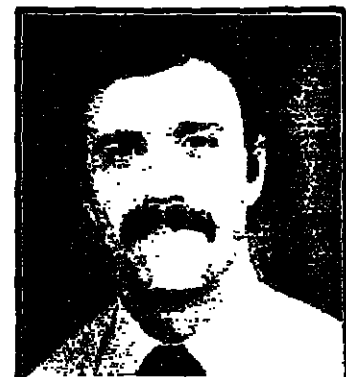
SMH's sound parts have been taken over by Britain's Lloyds Bank and West German banks are playing caretaker on the rest until receivers decide what to do with the bankrupt IBH.

The SMH crisis shocked the Finance Ministry in Bonn into action. After years of deliberation, the cabinet earlier this month approved plans to revise the banking law.

If the law is passed — and its passage is expected to be far from smooth — the new limit will be 50 per cent of capital and the definition of one borrower will be tightened.

Islam rules out social inferiority of women

By Dr. Ibrahim Ata



Dr. Ibrahim Ata

ONE OF many controversial subjects arising from the progressive developing societies is the role and status of women. Focusing around the issue are, naturally, discussions and infinite arguments favouring, or otherwise, the inevitability of the emergence of the rights of women. It is contended, that as the Middle East undergoes rapid development and social change the gradual emancipation of women must follow.

In order to understand the make-up and status of the Muslim woman up to the present, it is absolutely necessary to trace and examine the factors and causes of her inequality with the man since the emergence of Islam. Against this background the understanding of any progress in the position of women becomes easier and more understandable. Identifying the relevant causes would ultimately facilitate remedying the disease and ensure an effective treatment.

To be historically just, it must be admitted that the degradation of women in the Islamic society is for the most part the result of social influences for which Islam is unjustly made to be responsible; they are definitely the outcome of the social relations of the peoples converted to Islam.

Reflecting on the very essence of Koran, one can single out numerous superstitions as well as certain customs which have been wrongly interpreted; or which do not quite coincide with rational thinking — even though they are found in the Hadith, e.g. charms, etc. Bigamy and scolding of women which are excoriated without reason, are but a few of the laws set forth which Muslims realise need to be in concord with the spirit of Koran if justice is to be achieved. Muslims for the first time are ready to question the long undisputed assumption in regard to maintaining the ignorance of women of anything that exists beyond the realm of her household.

For some time now, the junctions of the husband and wife have been advocated as quite distinct. Each of them is entrusted with the functions which are best suited for his or her 'nature'. A man, for example, excels a woman in his physical contribution, thus making him capable of bearing greater hardships and dangers. On the other hand, the woman excels the man in the qualities of love and affection. Nature for her own purpose of helping in the growth of creation, has endowed women with the quality of love far greater than that possessed by man. Hence there is a natural division of labour, the purpose of which is the progress of humanity. The man is

says, "she is constantly obliged to reason on a lower level in order to understand the thoughts and feelings of her child." As for the welfare of her house it is narrow in scope and requires little in thought. Like many others, such superficial and spurious justification for division of both labour and nature, make us wonder whether the characteristics of logic in the East and the West are identical. The climax of this discrepancy lies in Al Khawli's concluding remark, that the physical difference is irrevocably nature's intention to prepare each sex for a different type of career.

Another, M. Oub in 1964, argues that women are imbued with an emotional bias rather than an intellectual insight. He dispenses the word "inequality" between man and woman with "differentiation", regarding their special functions in life. It is natural therefore, that each of the functions is fulfilled through a different disposition and constitution. He ventures that because of her very emotional nature she is liable to digress from the real facts in any argument, it would be wise to have another woman alongside in a dispute so "if one errs, the other will remember." Hence, Oub postulates that the accused who may be an attractive woman may make the female witness jealous and hostile towards her and thus would give the wrong evidence. Therefore, the second woman-companion, may correct the first when she is confused about the truth.

Basically, social traditions have been a primary hindrance for the emancipation of Muslim women. Men little touched by the modern world insist upon maintaining ancient customs with respect to women and other aspects of social life, too. They cannot, for example, abide by the 'exposure' of women in Western dresses. For them, it is inconceivable that a decent girl would dress in such a way as to make herself physically attractive in public. Why should she exhibit her charms if she does not mean to sell or give them away? remains a baffling but 'logical' question.

The multiple influences cited earlier have obviously forced the position of women into a lower status than her counterpart. Whilst this has had to be true for centuries, the winds of change heralding that inequality between the sexes is incompatible with the advancement of society as a whole are already being felt.

The writer is a lecturer in sociology at Yarmouk University. He contributed this article, in which he examines the status of Muslim Arab women in society, to the Jordan Times.

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Wrestling federation to get Iraqi trainer

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb has agreed to invite an Iraqi coach to take over the training of Jordan's national wrestling team and to organise a training wrestling course in Jordan. The decision, taken at a meeting with the Jordanian Wrestling Federation, will now be passed on to the Arab Wrestling Federation and Iraqi Wrestling Federation for approval. At the meeting Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb discussed with the federation's members a request by the Arab Wrestling Federation to hold the Sixth Arab Wrestling Championship in Jordan in the coming summer.

Al Rai newspaper reported that a decision on the matter has

been put off until the federation can find out about funds which the Arab federation can make available to finance such a tournament.

Speaking at the meeting, the federation's chairman Sami Musharbash explained the financial difficulties which the federation is now facing and which had delayed its activities including a programme to hold a tournament in Aqaba. Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb has instructed the YWO's financial section to grant the federation financial aid to enable it to carry out its activities. According to Mr. Musharbash the Aqaba tournament will be held by the end of the coming month now that funds have been made available by the YWO.

Austin Rover unveils new car

LONDON (AP) — Austin Rover has unveiled a new challenger for the World Rally Championship — a four wheel drive version of the MG Metro aimed at recapturing the company's golden era of 20 years ago.

Brainchild of Austin Rover's motor sport director, John Daventry, the car was developed jointly with the Williams team's Grand Prix engineers, led by designer Patrick Head.

The radical supercar, developed at a cost of £2 m, spearheads Austin Rover's plans to revive the days when the v6i Cooper dominated world rallying.

Mark Snowden, commercial

director of Austin Rover, commented:

"Although we will not make a final commitment to international rallying until the prototype Metros have proved themselves in competition, we would not announce the car at this stage if we were not confident of its ability." "It is our ambition to win the world championship with this exciting car."

At a time when several other teams are following Audi Quattro's Turbos, Austin Rover engineers have deliberately opted for conventional power to avoid throttle lag.

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Nanking ends visit with win over university

AMMAN (J.T.) — The visiting Chinese basketball team, Nanking, ended their week-long visit to Jordan Monday night with a magnificent victory over the University of Jordan team. The match was played at the university gymnasium under the patronage of University President Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Despite the tremendous support for the university team, Nanking overwhelmed the home team with a 92-57 points triumph. The score at half-time was 41-26 in the Chinese favour.

The match got off to an even start with both teams scoring points in turn, without any gaining the upperhand. But towards the end of the first half, the visitors pulled themselves together to a defensive formation, but at the same time increasing the scoreline in their favour to end the first half at 41-26.

In the second half, Nanking played some swift basketball and limiting moves set up by the uni-

versity. The tall Chinese players were blocking all the university attacks and at the same time making sure that the match was theirs from start to finish. The visitors came on like a storm towards the end of the match giving the university little hope of catching up with the score that ended 92-57 in Nanking's favour.

Nanking had played three other matches during their stay in Jordan. In the first match Nanking defeated the national basketball team 95-94. In the second match against the national team played at Yarmouk University they were beaten 103-98, and in the third they were beaten again by the national team 92-87.

Holmes, Tate fight set for April

LAS VEGAS (R) — Heavyweight Larry Holmes said Tuesday his International Boxing Federation title bout against John Tate would take place in Reno, Nevada, on April 6.

It was announced last week that the fight would take place there on that date last week, but Reno officials subsequently denied that the bout was set.

"I suppose the difficulty's now cleared up," Holmes told a press conference. "It was just a misunderstanding."

Reno officials were unavailable for comment.

Holmes said he would leave Las Vegas on Wednesday to return to his home in Easton, Pennsylvania, and would arrive in Reno on March 6 and begin training there the next day.

Holmes, a former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion until he relinquished his title late last year, predicted that Greg Page would win his bout against Tim Witherspoon for the vacant title on March 9.

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One of a few university attacks against Nanking on Monday evening.

Army holds cross-country competition

AMMAN (Petra) — The Fifth Royal Mechanised Division Monday claimed the first position in the Armed Forces Cross-Country Championships in the long distance race. The Fourth Royal Mechanised Division ranked the first in the short distance race.

Representative of the Chief of Staff delivered a speech urging contestants to display high sports spirit and to compete in an honourable manner.

At the end of the celebration representative of the chief of staff and chairman of the military sports federation distributed cups and medals to the winning teams.

New York Grand Prix race postponed

PARIS (AP) — The World Championship Grand Prix scheduled for New York Sept. 23 has been postponed until 1985, Jean-Marie

Balestre, President of the International Auto Sport Federation (FISA), said Monday.

Balestre said he was formally notified of the postponement, for the second straight year, by the Automobile Competitions Committee of the U.S. (ACCUS) last week.

Though FISA has "reservations" over races scheduled in Monaco and South Africa this year, Balestre said, he told a press conference Grand Prix racing had never been healthier.

FISA has applications from 111 new venues seeking championship races. Enzo Ferrari said recently, the 1984 season promises superb competition, and Ford is actively coming back into Grand Prix racing with engines and possible team sponsorship, he said.

Problems remain over television rights for the Monaco Grand Prix, and FISA's executive

committee will decide in Lisbon on March 12 if the famous race will count for the world championship, he said.

There are also doubts over the South African race set for April 7, and FISA is in daily touch with the organisers over the progress on required track safety modifications, Balestre said.

A new race on a street circuit at Fuengirola, a town on the Spanish south coast near Marbella, will be staged Oct. 21 to replace New York in the 16-race championship series, said Balestre.

He also stressed that FISA would not change the scheduled date of Oct. 7 for the Grand Prix of Europe at the new Nurburgring circuit in West Germany, despite worries about weather conditions. The definitive calendar is to be announced after the Lisbon meeting.

IBS to hold swimming meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Baccalaureate School (IBS) will hold its first swimming championship for its students at Al Hussein Youth City's winter swimming pool on Thursday March 1, under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Sarvath. The tournament includes programmes for children aged between eight and 16. Relay swimming and different water games.

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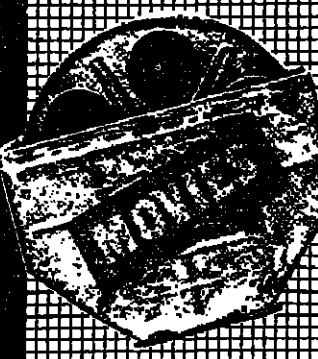
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 <p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280</p> <p>GO FOR IT Colour American</p> <p>Performances: 3-6 - 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117</p> <p>THE CHALLENGER (Colour) "Karate"</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 25155</p> <p>RUCKUS (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema ZAHARAN Tel: 23171</p> <p>THE PENSION INHERITOR Colour Italian</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema BASMAN Tel: 30126</p> <p>AADMI AUR INSAN (Colour) "Indian Film"</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117</p> <p>1- TORCH OF RAGE 2- BRUCE LEE'S TREASURES (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198</p> <p>PUKAR "Indian film" (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>
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Renault unveils new model

GENEVA (R) — France's state-owned motor company Renault Tuesday unveiled a new passenger saloon model which it says is more aerodynamic than any car in production.

The Renault 25, which will appear for the first time at the Geneva motor show starting on Thursday, is said to have a drag coefficient of only 0.28.

The car, to be sold on the French market from next month, will be made in eight versions including a high-performance model and an economy turbocharged diesel.

Good fuel consumption resulting from the low drag coefficient and large fuel tanks will give the four-seater cars especially extensive touring ranges without the need to refuel, Renault said.

Council of Europe to launch new economic, monetary moves

STRASBOURG (R) — The 21-nation Council of Europe Tuesday announced a new initiative to promote world economic and monetary reform and to improve relations between developed and developing countries.

Portugal will host a conference in April of West European parliamentarians, officials from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development Programme, and Third World countries. The Strasbourg-based council said Tuesday.

The aim of the Lisbon conference will be to step up aid from industrialized nations to countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, the council said.

Aid from the developed nations has stagnated at 0.38 per cent of their Gross National Product, far below a 0.7 per cent target set by the United Nations in 1965.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed in quiet trading and at 1500 Tuesday the F.T. 30 share index was up 1.1 at 820.2 while at 1530 the F.T.-S.E. 100 was up 0.6 at 1041.9.

Equities rose initially on the back of Wall Street's gain overnight but turned mixed on lack of follow through and were tending to close easier on balance in reaction to the lower opening on Wall Street Tuesday, dealers said. ICI was 10p off at 574. Golds moved up with the bullion price.

Government bonds firmed up to 7/16 point in response to the strength of sterling with some overseas demand noted. North Americans were higher.

London Brick jumped 11p to 163 after news Hanson Trust has won control of the company. Hanson rose 7p to 182.

Grindlays shed 8p to 164 following full year results while clearing banks fell as much as 8p on rekindled fears of a new tax on financial services and news that British banks will be asked to deduct tax at source on savings interest.

Vickers was up 6p at 163 on further appraisal of its annual results. Unilever firmed 10p to 925 but Glaxo was a net 5p down at 740 after 755. Oil leaders showed net gains ranging to 5p but Ultramar added 13p to 667 on demand in a thin market.

Insurances eased a few pence after a firm opening, dealers said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4925/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2521/24	Canadian dollars
	2.6025/35	West German marks
	2.9365/75	Dutch guilders
	2.1575/85	Swiss francs
	53.25/59	Belgian francs
	8.0220/50	French francs
	1618.00/1619.00	Italian lire
	233.10/20	Japanese yen
	7.7525/7625	Swedish crowns
	7.4900/5000	Norwegian crowns
	9.5475/5575	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	401.00/401.50	U.S. dollars

Banks, Alia to sign loan agreement in March

BAHRAIN (R) — A syndicated Kuwaiti bank loan to Jordan's national airline Alia has been fully subscribed and is expected to be made in the second half of March, lead manager National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said Tuesday.

The bank, contacted by Reuters, said the eight-year loan, initially for 15 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$51.4 million) had been oversubscribed by five million dinars (\$17 million) and was now expected to be for 20 million dinars (\$68.4 million).

The base currency for the loan, to help finance the purchase of four Lockheed TriStar aircraft, is the Kuwaiti dinar, but Alia may request other currencies, the bank said.

Kuwaiti dinar funds will be at ½ per cent over the Kuwait Inter Bank Offered Rate (KIBOR) for the first four years and ¾ per cent over KIBOR for the last four years.

The loan has a four year grace period.

Alia said earlier this month that it would borrow a total \$130 million to purchase the planes, with funds also being provided by the U.S. Export Import Bank and the British government's Export Credit Guarantee Department.

The other banks participating in the Kuwaiti loan are the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Gulf Bank, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait and Burgan Bank. NBK said.

French retail prices rise

PARIS (R) — French retail prices rose faster in January but the annual inflation rate is still declining, the finance ministry said Monday.

The January price increase was 0.7 per cent after a 0.3 per cent rise in December, and a ministry communiqué blamed this partly on higher food prices and higher cigarette, petroleum and television taxes.

It took consolation in the annual figures showing a 9.0 per cent inflation rate in the year to end-January after 9.3 per cent for all of 1983.

The ministry said retail prices rose only 7.5 per cent in the past six months and predicted the monthly rate would fall after "relatively higher" monthly figures in early 1984.

January is traditionally a bad month for retail prices, as new taxes and price increases take effect. In 1980 the monthly rise was 1.9 per cent, in 1981 it was 1.2 per cent, in 1982, 1.0 per cent and last year, 0.9 per cent.

Finance Minister Jacques Delors has pledged to bring the 1984 inflation rate down to five per cent, a figure below most private economists' forecasts for the year.

Senior Vatican cardinals meet to discuss finances

VATICAN CITY (R) — A senior group of 14 cardinals is meeting this week to discuss church finances amid expectations that the Vatican will soon announce an ex-gratia payment to liquidators of the failed Banco Ambrosiano, Vatican and diplomatic sources said.

The select group represents the Roman Catholic Church leadership on five continents and over the next two days will mainly discuss the Vatican's budget deficit, believed to total \$30 million last year, the same as in 1982, diplomatic sources said.

But the meeting also takes place amid speculation that the Vatican bank, which owned part of Ambrosiano but has always denied responsibility for its failure, is ready to pay about \$250 million to liquidators as a goodwill gesture.

Italian Treasury Minister Giovanni Goria said earlier this month the Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR), the Vatican bank, would make a "significant contribution" towards the settlement of outstanding claims against Ambrosiano.

Known as the Council of Cardinals for the Study of Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See, the group can make recommendations to Pope John Paul.

The cardinals held a little publicised meeting here last October and have already conducted a thorough study of IOR's relationship with the failed private banking group.

The Vatican has said that the IOR unwittingly owned 10 Panama finance houses into which \$1.3 billion of Ambrosiano loans disappeared.

Ambrosiano crashed in August 1982.

Although the Vatican has denied any responsibility for the demise of the bank, it has come under pressure to contribute towards the settlement of Ambrosiano debts.

Diplomatic sources said the Vatican was originally expected to announce a voluntary payment to the liquidators when it signed a new concordat with the Italian state on Feb. 18.

Experts discuss Third World debt, IMF role

SANTIAGO (R) — Bankers, economists, government officials and representatives of international financial organisations began a three-day conference here Monday on ways to improve the international financial environment.

More than 400 experts from 18 countries are attending the conference — the Roundtable on Money and Finance — held at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

The regional roundtable was set up last year under the auspices of the North-South Roundtable, which looks at relations between developed and developing countries as a whole.

The president of the North-South Roundtable, Pakistani Planning and Development Minister Mahbub ul Haq, told the opening session the Santiago meeting should aim to make concrete proposals for tackling international

financial problems caused by the inability of poorer countries to service foreign debts.

He suggested that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) make a new issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRS), the international currency based on the value of five major currencies, in order to improve the reserve positions of developing countries.

Mr. Haq suggested that the IMF issue 40 billion SDRS, equal to about \$42 billion, over five years, which would have to be distributed according to each country's IMF quota.

Richer countries which did not need their full allocation could contribute a proportion to a special IMF-administered trust fund to help the poorest and most heavily indebted nations with their economic adjustment programmes, he said.

Mr. Haq also stressed the need to increase the resources of the International Development Ass-

ociation (IDA), the World Bank affiliate which lends money over long periods at low interest rates to the poorest developing countries.

Mr. Arthur Brown, associate administrator of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), cited these countries in suggesting that the IMF could modify the conditions it places on loans to member countries with balance of payments problems.

The role of the fund's austerity programmes, which many developing countries feel can impose intolerable social and political strains, is to be a central topic of the conference.

ECLA Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias said Latin America, with total foreign debts exceeding \$300 billion, had yet to feel the beneficial effects of recovery elsewhere as high interest rates and unfavourable terms of trade persisted.

OAU faces serious crisis

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is edging towards paralysis because member states owe it \$43 million in membership arrears, OAU Interim Secretary-General Peter Onu said Tuesday.

He told an OAU foreign ministers meeting that the pan-African organisation's financial crisis was so serious that its Addis Ababa-based secretariat often did not know whether it could pay its staff.

Senior African officials believe the OAU's financial crisis is as serious as any political upheavals the 21-year-old organisation has faced during the past two years.

Poor states pay

Mr. Onu said 35 member states

had paid nothing towards the OAU's \$23.6 million 1983/84 budget.

Some had not paid their dues since 1970.

He did not name the non-payers, but said many that had paid were those facing the most serious financial difficulties, making it difficult to understand why the richer countries could not pay their dues.

The meeting was due to adopt an increased budget for 1984/85 of \$25.3 million, Mr. Onu said.

The secretariat had already begun strict austerity measures, he said, but appealed to members to pay their dues in full.

On the political front, Mr. Onu said the OAU was still threatened by a dispute between the Polisario Front and Morocco over the West-

ern Sahara and by civil war in Chad, issues that had brought previous meetings close to collapse. Efforts would continue to solve both.

Mr. Onu warned member states against the "political acrobatics" of South Africa and said its troop disengagement accord with Angola and recent security talks with Mozambique should not be allowed to hinder efforts to bring independence to Namibia (South West Africa).

Refugees need help

He also said Africa had to find more money to alleviate the plight of its five million refugees, half the world's total.

In the past Western donors have been suspicious of giving money for refugees because they felt the money was misused.

Cairo lifts crude oil prices

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is adding 25 U.S. cents a barrel to prices next month for its heavier grades of crude oil although its principal Suez blend will remain at \$28 a barrel, a spokesman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation said Tuesday.

Egypt, exporting about 250,000 barrels of crude oil daily, does not belong to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price-fixing ring. Its monthly price review in line with market trends is therefore a barometer of the underlying state of the market.

Benchmark Suez blend has been steady since January at \$28, \$1 less than the official OPEC reference price for similar Arabian light crude. The heavier Egyptian crudes were upped slightly in February.

In the new March price changes, the spokesman said Sudan crude would rise 25 cents to \$26.60, Balayim to \$26.75 and Marine Balayim to \$27.50, reflecting a slightly stronger market for crudes rich in heating oil.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Daytime can bring a considerable number of obstacles in the path of your desires. Your reason may conflict with your emotions. The evening is fine for romance and sociability.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Friends are disappointing during the day but very agreeable in the evening. Much enjoyment with your mate tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be sure you do nothing that can irk one who has much power over your affairs. After a hard day, gad about town with friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have work to do that should be completed, so don't run off to new interests yet. A new acquaintance can be of great help.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study your obligations, and figure out the best way to handle them. Don't argue with the one you love.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A partner could be acting rather strangely, so avoid until the mood changes. Be more objective. Enjoy the company of a good friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't try to change your technique at work since all is going fine. Make use of any health treatment you may need in the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Don't commit yourself to new expenses just because you would like a change. Show more thought to your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Do not get angry with a family tie who won't do what you ask. Remain poised. Evening is fine for entertaining at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what it is that allies expect of you, but don't do anything you disapprove of. Be more objective. Visit those you like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your financial affairs in order and learn to economize more. Don't invest heavily in anything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your practical views and emotions are not coordinating so be careful. Listen to what experts have to say. A rather frustrating day.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You want to run away from frustrations, but it is best you keep any promises you have made. Control your temper.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is one who will be very demanding during youth, so be sure to teach early to have consideration for others and to be more controlled. Your progeny will do well in school. The field of sales is especially good here.

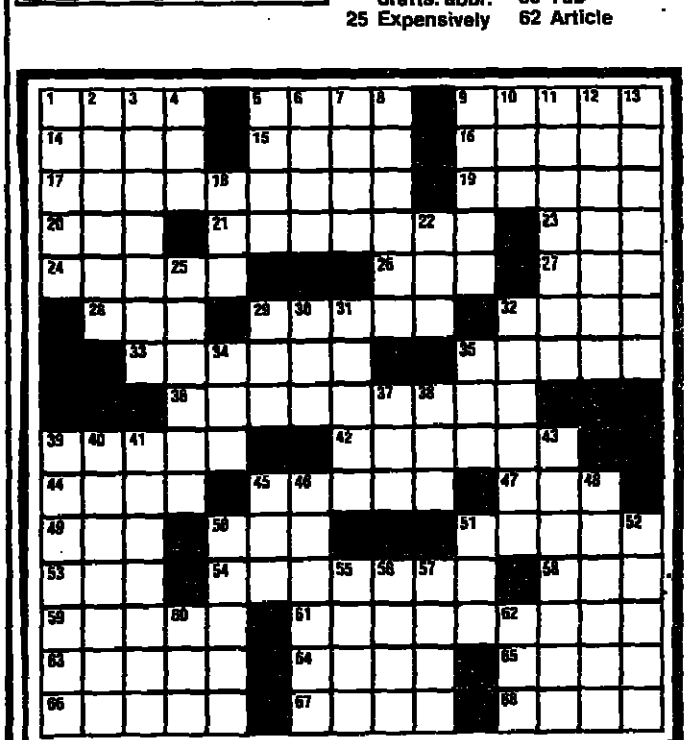
"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword by T. Richard Mora

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 28 Bread type | 58 Song syllable | 29 About communities: abbr. |
| 1 Green stone | 29 Daytime | 59 Pointed arch | 30 Acorn's parent |
| 5 Gush | 32 Effortlessness | 61 Don of inquiry? | 31 Little orphan — |
| 9 Bishop's headpiece | 33 Polynesian | 63 Walk | 32 Detective Queen |
| 14 Hero | 35 More melancholy | 64 Forearm bone | 34 Stooze name |
| 15 Director | 36 Din of inquiry? | 65 Ruminant | 35 Sandwich letters |
| 20 Noah's vessel | 39 Mink relative | 67 Sign of sorrow | 38 Hush-hush arg. |
| 21 Respects | 42 Pedal arch | 68 Consumes | 39 Cooler heads |
| 23 Reentrant | 44 Cavort | DOWN | 40 Musically speedy |
| 24 Feats | 45 Vicinities | 1 Moslem holy war | 41 More like Hawaiian weather |
| 26 Employ | 46 Sackcloth | 2 Worshiper | 43 Ancient country |
| 27 Spire ornament | 48 Sick | 3 Beasts of burden | 45 Parseghian |
| | 50 — Magnon | 4 Moose | 46 Bad liquor |
| | 51 Old Eng. courts | 5 Filming locations | 48 Ruler |
| | 53 Muffin | 7 One: Ger. | 50 Students |
| | 54 Porridge | 8 Come to | 51 Guionian |
| | | 9 Person's house | 52 Orange-red stones |
| | | 10 Nuptial words | 55 Burrower |
| | | 11 Certain scene | 56 Ferber |
| | | 12 Oval | 57 At a distance |
| | | 13 More frail | 60 Tub |
| | | 18 Roger | 62 Article |
| | | 22 Author's drafts: abbr. | |
| | | 25 Expensively | |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. GEMINI, 5. GUSH, 9. BISHOP'S HEADPIECE, 14. HERO, 15. DIRECTOR, 20. NOAH'S VESSEL, 21. RESPECTS, 23. REENTRANT, 24. FEATS, 26. EMPLOY, 27. SPIRE ORNAMENT, 28. BREAD TYPE, 29. DAYTIME, 32. EFFORTLESSNESS, 33. POLYNESIAN, 35. MORE MELANCHOLY, 36. DIN OF INQUIRY?, 39. MINK RELATIVE, 42. PEDAL ARCH, 44. CAVORT, 45. VICINITIES, 46. SACKCLOTH, 48. SICK, 50. — MAGNON, 51. OLD ENG. COURTS, 53. MUFFIN, 54. PORRIDGE, 58. SONG SYLLABLE, 59. POINTED ARCH, 61. DON OF INQUIRY?, 63. WALK, 64. FOREARM BONE, 65. RUMINANT, 67. SIGN OF SORROW, 68. CONSUMES, 29. ABOUT COMMUNITIES: ABBR., 30. ACORN'S PARENT, 31. LITTLE ORPHAN —, 32. DETECTIVE QUEEN, 34. STOOZE NAME, 35. SANDWICH LETTERS, 38. HUSH-HUSH ARG., 39. COOLER HEADS, 40. MUSICALLY SPEEDY, 41. MORE LIKE HAWAIIAN WEATHER, 43. ANCIENT COUNTRY, 45. PARSEGHIAN, 46. BAD LIQUOR, 48. RULER, 50. STUDENTS, 51. GUIONIAN, 52. ORANGE-RED STONES, 55. BURROWER, 56. FERBER, 57. AT A DISTANCE, 60. TUB, 62. ARTICLE.



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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

CARDS

"Do you have any 'It Wouldn't Have Happened If You'd Done It My Way' cards?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lay

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DRUIL

YOVIR

BLUJEM

MAANSE

WHAT HE CALLED HIS PRETTY FEMALE ASSISTANT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GOUGE BULGY QUIVER FONDLY

Answer: What the hypochondriac's motto was—GOOD GRIEF.

Mutt 'n' Jeff

NO, MA'AM, I DON'T THINK WHAT HE SAID IN THE FIRST CHAPTER WAS GERMANE...

WHAT WAS IT, FRENCH?

HAHAHAHA!!

BONK!

YOU A PSYCHIATRIST?

I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU! LIE ON THE COUCH AND I'LL PSYCHOANALYZE YOU!

NOW JUST LIE STILL AND TELL ME WHAT IS WORRYING YOU!

ON FEBRUARY 24 1962 I LOANED MUTT \$10 AND HE HADN'T PAID IT BACK ON APRIL 15! MUTT BORROWED \$15 FROM ME AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!

HERE'S MY BILL FOR SERVICES... \$25... NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

CONGRATS ON A GREAT GAME, ANDY—HAVE ONE ON ME...

AND BY THE WAY, IF EVER YOU'RE A MAN SHORT—

THANKS, VICAR

PITY, HE'S GOT RUGBY AMBITIONS, BUT A CROQUET BODY

Andy Capp

Soviets call again for NATO missile removal

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said the Soviet Union will return to the Geneva negotiations on medium-range nuclear weapons only if NATO removes the missiles already deployed in Western Europe, Pravda reported Tuesday.

Mr. Gromyko's speech reiterated the Kremlin's stance since the Soviets walked out of the Geneva talks last November, after the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation began deploying the first of 572 cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe.

"The proposals of the Soviet Union on the reduction of rockets in Europe are well known and they fully retain their force," Mr. Gromyko said. "One condition is necessary — that the United States shows its readiness to return to the situation existing before the beginning of the deployment of the American rockets."

One Western diplomat in Moscow said the speech indicated

there had been no change in the Kremlin's arms policy under the new leadership of Communist Party General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Gromyko's comments, carried in full by the party newspaper Pravda, were made at a voters' meeting in Minsk in advance of the March 4 parliament elections.

An earlier TASS summary of Mr. Gromyko's speech left it unclear whether the official Soviet position had changed, as it made vague references to "the existing parity" of nuclear arms between the two sides.

"The USSR stands for reaching agreements on the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms in ac-

cordance with the principle of equality and equal security," Mr. Gromyko said.

U.S. to offer new proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has tentatively agreed to a plan that could lead to an agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce troop levels in Eastern Europe, according to a published report Tuesday.

Mr. Reagan will propose the plan March 16 during troop reduction talks in Vienna and encourage the Soviets to return to the Geneva nuclear arms talks, the Los Angeles Times reported, quoting unidentified U.S. officials as saying.

Under the proposal, the United States would not pursue the issue of how many troops Warsaw Pact nations have in Eastern Europe if the Soviet Union allows the United States to monitor the reduction with on-site inspections.

Anti-government stoppage disrupts British transport

LONDON (R) — Anti-government protests by Britain's labour unions Tuesday disrupted transport in major cities and brought civil servants out to the streets to picket government offices.

Union members were responding to a call from the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the umbrella group for 10 million British workers, to oppose a government ban on union membership at a secret electronic spy centre at Cheltenham in western England.

The ban has caused a political storm for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government and threatens a recent improvement in her relations with the labour unions.

Strike action around the country was sporadic, affecting mainly transport and some health services.

Mrs. Thatcher has rejected the unions' offer of a no-strike pact at

Cheltenham, causing disquiet among many of her supporters, and the dispute threatens to reverse a recent modest improvement in the Conservative government's relations with the unions.

Railway workers, channel ferry crews, miners and civil servants are planning protest meetings during working hours, some of which will be followed by half-day strikes.

In parliament Monday night, the government easily won a vote on the issue forced by the small Social Democratic Party, but mustered only 201 votes at the end of the debate — barely half the Conservative majority in the House of Commons.

About 10,000 signals experts, translators and other workers at the Cheltenham Spy Centre and at satellite stations in Britain and abroad eavesdrop on the radio messages of the Soviet Union and other foreign powers.

India forms 'ambush squads' in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (R) — Punjab security forces Tuesday took special precautions, including forming "ambush squads", to deal with trouble arising from the arrest of nine Sikh leaders for burning the Indian constitution.

The Sikh leaders, arrested Monday on charges carrying jail terms of up to three years, go on trial on Thursday for tearing and burning the constitution during protests Monday in New Delhi and the Punjab capital Chandigarh.

"We have taken special precautions to deal with any trouble," a police spokesman told Reuters here in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Security sources said in a new strategy to stop the violence state police and paramilitary forces plan counter-guerrilla tactics.

Mexicans mark Aztec anniversary

MEXICO CITY (R) — The last Aztec emperor died 459 years ago Tuesday, dangling ignominiously from a tree, but Mexicans still retain at least as much respect for the country's old Indian cultures as for its Spanish conquerors.

Cuauhtemoc, a "stop-gap" ruler in today's political jargon, was hanged on orders from Hernan Cortes, who led the Spanish conquest.

Mexicans celebrated Tuesday's anniversary quietly, laying flowers on the many monuments to Cuauhtemoc. But far more statues were built to the Aztec leader than ever to Cortes.

One columnist compared Mexico's Aztec spiritual inheritance with what he saw as the worldliness of Spain.

"Cuauhtemoc was a symbol of one side of our mixed inheritance, the heroic, noble, stoic and pro-

foundly spiritual," Pedro Estrada said in a story issued by the news agency Notimex.

He compared this to "the dominance and adventurousness symbolised by Cortes, greedy for riches and power."

Cortes' troops had routed the Aztecs four years earlier, then tortured Cuauhtemoc in a vain attempt to find out where his predecessor, Montezuma, had hidden the Aztec gold treasure.

Cortes kept Cuauhtemoc, elected emperor to replace Montezuma who was seen to have sold out to the Spaniards, as a prisoner as insurance against an Aztec uprising.

In Feb. 1525 Cortes was told that the officer he sent to colonise today's Central America had betrayed him.

Setting out on a punitive mis-

sion, he brought along Cuauhtemoc. En route, Cortes heard rumours that the former Aztec ruler was plotting a rebellion.

Promptly ordering "the falling eagle" hanged, Cortes watched Cuauhtemoc die.

Many Mexicans say they feel greater affinity with the Aztecs, Mayas and other Indian cultures than with the Spaniards who conquered the Latin American continent.

"I identify more with Cuauhtemoc and the old cultures although my ancestry is mainly Spanish," said Guadalupe Guzman, a Mexico City secretary.

After decades of teaching only Spanish in schools, the government in the late 1970s accepted bilingual tuition in areas where one of the 55 recognised Indian languages is spoken.



60 people reported killed in Monday's Nigerian riots

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Muslim extremists wielding axes, machetes, and guns rioted in the northeast town of Jimeta, killing at least 60 people and injuring about 50, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported Tuesday.

The agency said that the rioting broke out Monday in the town — near the Cameroon border about 800 kilometres northeast of Lagos — but by Tuesday had been quelled by Gongola state authorities.

"The situation is well under control," it quoted Lt.-Col. Cyril Iweze, acting state governor under Nigeria's military government, as saying in a broadcast on local radio Monday night.

According to police sources in Jimeta, which is just outside the state capital of Yola, the rioting broke out when followers of the outlawed Muslim extremist group Maitatsine began attacking other residents in the town, NAN said.

Police were called and a pitched

battle ensued in which the extremists were surrounded in a section of the town, the NAN said.

It quoted police sources as saying 40 of the rioters were arrested. "Life is returning to normal gradually in the state capital and hundreds of people were seen returning to their homes," the agency said.

NAN quoted hospital sources as saying that of the 60 corpses counted at the Yola Specialist Hospital, 57 had suffered "machete, axe or sword cuts" and the other three had been shot to death. The shadowy Maitatsine group is blamed by authorities for stirring up trouble in Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north in 1980 and in Midgurti in 1982. Published reports said hundreds had been killed.

Since its independence from Britain in 1960, Africa's most populous nation with an estimated 100 million people, has been the scene of repeated internal clashes.

Truckers declare indefinite blockade of Alpine pass

INNSBRUCK, Austria (R) — A truck blockade of the Brenner Pass linking Italy and Austria entered its sixth day Tuesday with drivers vowing to extend their protest action indefinitely.

The blockade, involving more than 2,000 lorries stretching along the motorway across Austria from the West German border to the Alpine passes, began last Thursday with drivers demanding written guarantees from the Italian government on faster customs clearance at the border.

"The blockade will continue indefinitely and we will not lift it until our demands are met," said Austrian truck owner Otto Klausner, spokesman for a committee of truck drivers organising the blockade at the Brenner Pass.

The truckers want round-the-clock customs clearance for lorries on four lanes, a ban on strikes, by customs officials, compensation for losses and guarantees that those taking part in the blockade will not be prosecuted.

47 killed, 20 wounded in Filipino rebel ambush

MANILA (R) — At least 47 people were killed and 20 wounded in a two-hour gunbattle between Muslim rebels and government troops in the southern Philippines, the official Philippine News Agency (PNA) said Tuesday.

It said that 34 of those killed in the weekend battle in Basilan province on Mindanao Island were members of the secessionist Muslim Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The rest were government soldiers.

The agency quoted Brigadier-General Rodolfo Tolentino as saying a patrol of about 30 troops was ambushed by about 150 rebels armed with light-machine guns, grenade launchers and automatic rifles.

He said both sides brought in reinforcements during the battle which followed reports that MNLF members were gathering in the area.

The news agency said a lieutenant was among the army dead, but gave no names. Mindanao is the home of most of the predominantly Roman Catholic country's Muslim minority and the scene of frequent raids by MNLF and Communist guerrillas.

The MNLF has been campaigning for an independent Muslim state for nearly ten years.

Election law approved

Meanwhile the Philippines parliament has approved a new elec-

toral code that meets several of the opposition's demands for fair polling in parliamentary elections scheduled for May.

The code, passed Monday night, includes measures to ensure elections are not rigged and bans election-related arrests, death sentences, loss of citizenship and property during the run up to the polls.

But it does not include an opposition demand for President Ferdinand Marcos to be stripped of his law-making powers.

The measures were immediately welcomed by businessman Jose Concepcion, who heads a citizens' watchdog group to ensure honest elections.

But Agapito "Butz" Aquino, younger brother of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino and a rising star of Philippine politics, said: "The new election code is good but not good enough because Mr. Marcos still wields legislative powers."

Parliament dropped a government-backed proposal to raise the number of nominated seats in the new assembly from 17 to 37, which the opposition saw as a victory.

Deputy Prime Minister Jose Rono and Political Affairs Minister Leonardo Perez said most of the safeguards proposed by the opposition had been included in the code, clearing the way for its participation in the elections.

Seoul favours new ICAO report on KAL desaster

SEOUL (R) — A new International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) report on last September's downing of a South Korean airliner was more favourable to South Korea than an earlier report, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

ICAO's Air Navigation Commission said in Montreal Monday the Soviet Union made no attempt to identify the straying Korean Air Lines (KAL) jumbo jet before shooting it down with the loss of 269 lives.

"We find the report much more favourable than last December's report and it coincides with our position that there were no indications that Soviet fighters followed proper interception procedures," the spokesman said.

The commission, basing its conclusions on air-to-ground communication records, said it was difficult to validate or endorse a theory advanced by an ICAO investigative team in December that the airliner's crew had incorrectly programmed a navigation computer and allowed it to drift from its proper course for five and a half hours through inattentiveness.

A South Korea delegation will attend this week's ICAO governing council meeting in Montreal which will review the reports of the investigative team and the

navigation commission.

"It is of paramount importance for the interceptor aircraft to ensure that it attracts the attention of the pilot-in-command of the civil aircraft," the ICAO commission said.

The report was basically the commission's comments on the findings of an ICAO investigation team that visited the Soviet Union late last year.

Moscow has said the intercepting pilots made several signals at the airliner to follow them down to a Soviet airfield but that these were ignored.

The government daily Izvestia said on Sept. 12 the intercepting pilots flashed their lights, flew directly in front of the airliner and fired tracer shells along its flight path. There was no doubt the Korean pilot had been seen the signals, it said.

Soviet statements made clear the interceptors did not realise they were dealing with a civilian craft and thought the Boeing 747 was a U.S. spy plane.

The commission urged the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union to make every effort to ensure better communications and identification of aircraft flying over the northern Pacific.

Afghan guerrillas attack Soviet embassy in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas staged coordinated attacks on the Soviet embassy and Afghan government buildings in Kabul to mark the fourth anniversary of city-wide protests against Soviet intervention, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The guerrillas' rocket and mortar fire on the embassy and surrounding tanks last week drew a

barrage of rocket fire from the building's Soviet defenders, they quoted their envoys in Kabul as saying.

The embassy was only one of several targets in the attack to mark the demonstrations of Feb. 21, 1980 when shops closed and people clambered on roofs to shout "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is great) in defiance of recently-arrived Soviet troops.

Pakistani students burn Zia's effigy

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Students protesting against a government ban on their unions attacked the office of a university chief and burned an effigy of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, student sources said.

The sources said several hundred students took part in the protest Monday at the main Peshawar University campus.

They marched around the campus and later broke windows and furniture in the vice-chancellor's office and burned effigies of Gen. Zia, his education minister and the

provincial military governor.

In Karachi, police fired tear gas at stone-throwing students and in Pakistan-administered Kashmir they baton-charged several hundred marching demonstrators.

The Peshawar demonstration, on the sixteenth day of protests against the ban of student unions, was organised by Islami Jamiat Talaba (IJT), the student arm of the banned right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party which has been close to the military government.

Students at Peshawar University also boycotted classes, an IJT press release said.

Gen. Zia has said the ban is necessary to keep students from politics and to maintain a peaceful atmosphere for national elections he has promised to hold by March 1985.

But IJT President Meraj-Ud-Din asked at a student rally: "If students have to be away from politics then what does the military have to do with politics?"

The IJT press release quoted him as warning that the students could attract labourers, peasants, lawyers and teachers to their protests if the government did not lift the union ban.

Angola frees 7 mercenaries held since 1976

LONDON (R) — Angola has released seven British mercenaries jailed there since 1976 and put them on a plane in the capital Luanda Monday, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Tuesday.

The seven fought with one of two losing movements in a three-sided civil war which erupted after Portugal decided to grant independence to Angola, biggest of its former African territories. A court set up by the victorious Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) jailed them for terms of between 16 and 30

years for their part in the conflict.

Sir Geoffrey, who gave no details of their flight from Luanda, said in a statement issued by the Foreign Office that Britain had made repeated strong pleas for their release.

A Foreign Office spokesman said there was no connection between the release of the mercenaries and the recent kidnapping of 77 foreign hostages by right-wing UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) guerrillas. The hostages include 16 Britons.

"There was no UNITA involvement in this decision...and the

British government continues to have no contact with UNITA," he said.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos agreed last January to free the mercenaries, Sir Geoffrey added.

The seven were recruited in Britain to fight for the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) which lost the civil war to Cuban-backed forces of the MPLA.

Four others were executed. Two Angolan mercenaries jailed at the same time were freed last November.

E. German emigration to West soars

GIessen, West Germany (R) — A sudden tenfold jump in emigration from East Germany has stretched the resources of the main West German reception camp here.

Diplomats say the recent liberation, welcomed by the Bonn government, appears to be a deliberate bid by the East German authorities to nurture bilateral ties while at the same time heading off potential unrest at home.

For staff at Giessen, 130 kilometres from the border with East Germany, the increase in the number of emigrants in the past week has come as a surprise.

One harassed official described the influx as an invasion. Camp Director Heinz Doerr estimated the number of arrivals — mostly married couples in their mid-twenties to mid-thirties with children — at some 100 people a day since Feb. 18.

"At this time of year we usually have about 300 in one month," he said.

Mr. Doerr said he had noted a gradual rise in numbers since last November but the latest jump, stretching the camp's ability to cope with more than 600 people at once, was unexpected.

Mr. Doerr said the surge could last until April but there was speculation in Bonn that a bid by relatives of East German Prime Min-

ister Willy Stoph to escape to the West could affect the interests of the estimated 500,000 East Germans still waiting for exit visas.

Mr. Stoph's niece, Ingrid Berg, and four other relatives entered West Germany's embassy in Prague last Friday and said they would stay there until given permission to emigrate. The Bonn government is continuing a blackout of news about the family.

Emigration from East to West Germany has been severely limited since the Berlin Wall was built in 1961 and is a delicate issue in relations between the two countries.

The Bonn government, while seeking improved ties with its Communist neighbour, has repeatedly urged East Berlin to ease the curbs, as it did when it approved a one-billion-mark (\$400-million) credit for East Germany last year.

Diplomats in Bonn say the current relaxation stems from the East Berlin authorities' desire both to foster better relations with West Germany and also to deflect disaffection.

"Certainly the business of getting rid of people who might become a focus of disaffection is a tactic they have followed many times before," one Western diplomat said. "But they are also interested in

the maintenance of good relations with West Germany, particularly their ability to maintain a heavy build-up of export credits," the diplomat added.

East Germans of working age who apply for an exit visa face a lengthy and often vain struggle to satisfy the authorities that they have humanitarian grounds for doing so, such as a wish to join relatives already living in West Germany.

One 33-year-old East Berliner, a member of the church-led Anti-Nuclear Movement in East Germany, said he had lodged 51 applications to leave since mid-1980. "Approval came as a bit of a shock after three-and-a-half years," he told Reuters.

Mr. Doerr said: "In some cases, police visited people at work during their lunchbreak and told them they had to be out by the next day."

One family from Dresden, munching oranges in the camp canteen, has brought only what they could carry. "All we have left from 16 years of marriage are four suitcases, two handbags and a school satchel," the wife said.

The camp at Giessen, sandwiched between two busy roads on the edge of the town, is the first stopping point for the East Germans after a one-day train journey from the border.

COLUMN

Java's snake trade booms

JAKARTA (R) — Java's booming snake trade has caused a scarcity of the reptiles on the island and is threatening the existence of some rare species, the official Antara News Agency said Tuesday. The slaughter of snakes for their skins, their blood and their flesh for house pets has cut Java's snake population, Antara said. The agency said it had become fashionable among certain people to drink snake's blood for health purposes, particularly to keep their skin looking young. Indonesian folklore says snake blood is an aphrodisiac and makes one live longer.

Indian, Sri Lankan to be stoned to death

ABU DHABI (R) — An Indian man and a Sri Lankan woman have been sentenced to be stoned to death after being convicted of committing adultery, a prosecutor at Al Ain town 160 kilometres east of here said Tuesday. He said the man, identified only as Kondea, 27, and the now-pregnant woman, Shahila, 25, had admitted having sexual intercourse several times. The sentence by the Islamic Sharia court has to be ratified by the chief Sharia justice and the head of state. Under Islamic Sharia (law), the two face death by stoning for adultery. They would have received 100 lashes each if they had been unmarried, the prosecutor said. He said that the sentence were approved, the woman would be allowed time to deliver and feed her baby, so other women could be found to feed the child.

India's Antarctica station operating

NEW DELHI (R) — India's third Antarctica expedition commissioned a permanent station on the continent three days ago, official sources said Tuesday. They said a 12-man wintering party would stay at the station for a year and the rest of the expedition's 83 members would set off for home on March 1. Officials at India's Department of Ocean Development said the station, at a latitude on 72 degrees south and a longitude of 110 degrees east, was functioning well. They quoted expedition leader H.K. Gururao saying experiments in meteorology, biology and snow mechanics were successfully completed. India is the 15th nation to set up camp on Antarctica.

Alaskan killer gets 461 years in jail

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — A local businessman will spend the rest of his life in prison for killing 17 prostitutes and topless dancers, Robert Hansen, 45, confessed to court Monday. He murdered 17 women over a 10-year period starting in 1973 and dumped their bodies in the Alaska wilderness. Hansen, owner of an Anchorage bakery, was sentenced by a jury court judge Ralph B. B. to 461 years plus life without possibility of a parole. Hansen pleaded guilty to the first degree murder of four women whose bodies have been found. He admitted murdering 13 others and raping more than 30 others. He agreed to help investigators locate the remains of the 13 murdered women.

Australians have major drinking problem, experts say

SYDNEY (AP) — Alcohol abuse is epidemic proportion in Australia and can no longer be successfully treated, drug and alcohol researchers said Monday. Speaking at a seminar at the University of Western Australia, professor David Hawks said Australians drink more than any people in the English-speaking world. Prof. Hawks, director of the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Abuse Authority, said 250,000 Australians are "alcoholics" or "alcohol dependent" and many more are affected by alcohol abuse. "One in every five hospitals is occupied by a person suffering the adverse effects of alcohol," he said. Another expert, John Peard of the Victorian Health Commission, said Australia's drinking problem is "so big it's unlikely we are going to make any major impact using our current treatment methods. The only long-term solution is to drastically reduce alcohol consumption in society."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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A NINE IN TIME SAVES SLAM

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K108
♥ KQ7
♦ A Q42
♣ 953

WEST EAST
♠ 973 ♠ 6542
♥ 842 ♥ 9853
♦ 106 ♦ J953
♣ QJ1064 ♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q J
♥ A J 10
♦ K 8 7
♣ A K 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 5 NT Pass
6 NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

There is often more than one line of play that declarer can adopt to make his contract. Winners at the table are those who can spot the lines and then find a way to test all or most of them.

North's raise to five no trump requests his partner to bid six no trump if he has a minimum two no trump opener, seven if he is maximum. South was minimum and settled in the small slam. West led the top of his club

sequence, and declarer could count only 11 tricks because of the wasted values in the major suits. A 12th trick could be established if either minor suit split 3-3; however, the chances for an even club split could be discounted because of the opening lead.

Declarer won the opening lead and tried three rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. When West failed to follow to the last of these, it seemed that declarer was in trouble. Fortunately, he spotted that his club holding offered hope of an end play.

To strip West of his exit cards, declarer cashed his major suit winners. Then he led the nine of clubs from the table and, when East stuffed a spade on this trick, the contract could not be defeated. Declarer simply played a low club from hand and West won the trick with the ten of clubs.

Now declarer's ground-work paid off. West was down to nothing but clubs, and he was forced to lead away from his Q-6 of clubs into declarer's A-8 tenace, and so give declarer his fulfilling trick.

Meanwhile the Philippines parliament has approved a new elec-

tion law approved a new elec-